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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Cede Incarnate.

From "The Brook and Other Poems," by William B. Wright, a new and very remarkable American volume, justifying almost any high expectation of the author's literary future, the following pictaresque idealization may be selected as a fine example of combined delicacy and power in thought and diction:

LAW.

What nightly port of man draws near,
What here carved from the antique,
What child of battle and the spear?
Full armed, he rides by lake and creek,
Fenced, breast and thigh, in glorious scale,
The visor dark on brow and cheek.
O creature fashioned to prevail,
What errand, what ideal quest,
What sainted shrine, what holy grail?
Ever his lance is poised in rest,
Ever his glances search a field,
Ever before his pillared breast
The fugient orbit of his shield
Make splendor, like a captive sun;
And on it, graved in ample field,
The letters of his motto run,
"The perfect Law." O dauntless heart!
Proud goal forever never won!
Behold from brake and tarn apart,
All shapes that bear the name of foe:
Whatever pierces with the dart,
Whatever bends afar the bow:
And monsters of the middle air
Wheel over his many-spired slow,
Or sweep on, thunder-plumes to tear.
But nothing prospers to his harm:
Mid way they pause, stung with despair,
For something fateful in his arm,
Something of terror on his plume,
Melts with the breath of mad alarm
Their order, and completes their doom—
Their mass lose drift in wracks of flight.
Swift blasts confound, strange fires consume.
Mayhap he stirs himself for fight
To wipe some dint of disgrace from the earth:
Who sees him strike would guess the might
Of every god in heaven went forth.
His broadening purpose knows no bar;
A sleepless warrior from his birth,
From boorn to sliding bourn afar
He rides, of lawless enmity
The mock and mark by sun or star.
He, without sorrow, without joy,
And mingling not with love or hate,
Knows one abiding word—Destroy.
Sure hands of a conclusive Fate
Work out to men through sword and lance,
Through what they call shame, what create.
Not short nor over nor askance
The pith of his endeavor falls;
No slip, no halt, no mischance
Through what seduces, what appals;
Clear in the counsel of his mind,
He works his will, whate'er befalls.
Him yield full praise: ye will not find
His equal by the land or sea.
And yet a greater than his kind,
It is my dream, will come to me,
Larger in bearing and degree,
And of diviner race than he.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

RESTORING EXHAUSTED SOILS.

The following excellent article by Prof. John A. Nash will well repay attentive perusal. It is on a subject which is of vital interest to the farmers of the Northwest, and, indeed, of the whole country:

One method for restoring exhausted soils, especially in the Southern States, has been to turn them over for thirty or forty years to the growing of wood and timber. There is philosophy in this; and in times past, when too much land was our greatest trouble, such a course may have been wise. The roots of trees penetrate the soil deeper than those of ordinary crops, and bring fertilizing matters from the sub-soil and deposit them on the surface in the form of leaves, twigs and bark; and in forty years or less the soil was found to become such as it had been in its virgin state.

Another method has been to deepen the plowing. A farm has been plowed for two or three generations three to four inches each time. The surface is thoroughly worn out. A new-comer, or the old occupant a little more enlightened, buys a larger plow and runs it from eight to ten inches deep, according to the nature of the soil, and thereby finds a new farm under the old one. This is a good operation. Many a farm has by it doubled its value, and the deepening operation on some of our soils will ere long be extended to sixteen or eighteen inches, but it is doubtful whether the time has yet come when it is wise to talk about more than eight, ten, or at most twelve inches of mellowed soil.

The sowing of clover, to be plowed under in autumn, is another method. If the field is very badly impoverished it may be necessary to give the soil a dressing of plaster, and in extreme cases a light dressing of manure, in order to secure a good growth of clover the first year. The process, where the case is one of impoverishment, may require repetition for two or three years before attempting other crops in the way of rotation. The philosophy of this manner of treating the soil is easily mastioned. As the trees in the first case send their roots deep and bring up fertilizing matters to the surface, so clover, being a deep-rooting plant, draws from the sub-soil and is in favor of sub soil above it; and deep plowing lifts the yet unexhausted sub-soil to the surface, so the clover brings up, not the sub-soil itself, but the richer parts of it, for the surface.

Old pastures that have been long used for dairying purposes may be restored by returning to the soil the ingredients sold off in the milk, butter, and cheese. These are the bones of the cows and calves when fattened and sold as veal or beef. They are principally the phosphates, which a moderate dressing of ground bones once in four years, or a large dressing once in ten years, will fully resupply, and will keep the pasture, if not overstocked, good, and growing better perpetually.

A judicious system of growing and fattening animals, if originally of a good soil, should never deteriorate, and will not if the owner will not be covetous and overstock it. But it is safe to say that there is nowhere one to enough it will sadly fail. If he feeds it down to the turf and an inch lower among the grass roots from April to December there will be a good deal left for the sheep and cattle in winter. Experience has shown, and for many years that prevention is both easier and cheaper than cure. We have seen management just like this, and have seen exactly the result here described. We have now in mind a case exactly the reverse.

It was this: Three brothers, each having a small farm of his own, with pretty good meadow and pasture land in addition, grew to old age, bought three farms adjoining each other, two or three miles from their homes, to be held in common and to supply the deficiency of pasturage on their own farms. They fenced their farms contained about 400 acres. The former owners had cleared nearly all of the land, and had lived mainly by selling wood, lumber, and timber. There were still, however, a few fields standing chestnut poles enough to inclose the whole in one great pasture. This they did strongly and durably. The soil was strong, but light, rocky, and very poor. They found a spring, or a running trout brook clear as crystal, or ravines fed with pure water soaking in little pools, in nearly every part of the 400 acres, more or less. The brothers' business at their homesteads had been that of stall-feeding cattle for the New York and Boston markets, from which their place was about equi-distant. Their business was now about to be greatly enlarged by adding to it the making of grass-fed beef for the same markets. Texas and her South-western sisters were not then rivals for the supply of beef to the cities. Cattle there were Northern cities one-quarter as large as they are now. These three brothers knew well that the overstocking of pastures, as many were doing at that time, cuts down the profits and injures the land. They agreed to begin small and rather increase than diminish the value of their purchase. Each was to turn in an equal number of animals, of the bos genus only; each to work the same number of days in cutting bushes and other needed improvements, and each to take his turn in going once a week to get salt and to look after them, so that all was right Their practice was at first to turn in rather late—not till the snow was fairly off the ground. By limiting the number they found that the cattle were fatted cheap enough to attract the drovers early—as early in some instances as the 20th of June, and during the months of July, August and a few days in September, the whole drove was sold off, at times when beef was then, and we believe is now in greater demand and at higher prices than later in August. As their custom was not to turn in the second drove the same year, this not only enabled them to get the highest prices, but it also gave their pasture time to rest, or rather to grow for itself a heavy mulching for the coming winter, which, as all observant farmers well know, enriches the soil and brings an earlier growth of fresh grass the following spring; and this mixture of the new grass with the old affords a gradual change from dry to green feed more favorable to health and early fattening than a sudden change. Two or three years' practice of stocking highly in spring and summer and of pasturing little or no stock in autumn enabled them to increase the number of cattle, and yet have them ready for the drovers quite as early as before. Thus the three brothers became rich, as the term rich then signified, and at the same time enriched instead of impoverishing their land.

We believe that the several modes of restoring lost fertility above named are all well enough when times and circumstances favor, and that all may, in some cases, be resorted to on different parts of the same farm. But there is another mode which we prefer to all others. It consists in a very mixed farming—the growing much or little of everything to which the various lots and patches of a farm are adapted, together with stock-keeping.

Farming for specialties may offer stronger inducements to men who have learned to excel in some one or two things always in demand; but general, mixed farming, with plenty of stock, we believe to be the best of measures yet known for bringing back fertility to worn-out soils.

FATTENING ANIMALS.

The *Popular Science Monthly* gives these items relating to the manner of producing excessive fatness. It says: Numerous experiments have been made on geese, ducks, pigs, bees, &c., which go to prove that these animals accumulate much more fat than can be accounted for in the quantity present in the food. M. Flourens had the bears in the Jardin des Plantes fed exclusively on bread, and they became excessively fat. Bees confined to a diet of purified sugar continued to produce wax, which strictly belongs to the group of fats. But, whatever its source, the excessive use of non-nitrogenous food, conjoined with inactivity, frequently leads to the deposit of an inordinate amount of adipose tissue, and the fact is illustrated by numerous instances, both among the lower animals and among men.

At Strasburg the geese are fattened by shutting them up in darkened coops within a heated room, and stuffing them constantly with food. The high temperature lessens the escape of the heat, and thus favors the process. Here all the conditions for insuring obesity are resorted to namely: extended heat, obscurity, inactivity and the cramming of animals with fattening food. A still greater refinement for pandering to the appetite is resorted to by the Italians, who relish the fat of the ortolan.

To procure this in perfection the natural habits of the bird were watched, and it having been found that in only fakes food at the rising of the sun, they cheat the birds by producing an artificial sunrise. To effect this the ortolans are placed in a dark warm chamber, which has but one aperture in the wall. Food being scattered over the floor, a lantern is placed at a certain hour, in the opening, when the birds, misled by the dim light, at once commence feeding. The meal finished the lantern is withdrawn and more food scattered on the floor when the ortolans sleep. Two or three hours having elapsed, and digestion being completed, the lantern is again made to throw its light into the apartment. The rising sun recalls the birds to the habit of again feeding, and they again feed with returning darkness. This process is repeated several times in the twenty-four hours, in a very short time the ortolan becomes literally a ball of fat, which, strung in a wick, is said to make an excellent lamp.

FERTILIZERS.

The Boston *Journal of Chemistry* says: One of the most interesting facts which this extraordinary wet season has brought out is, that fertilizers applied to soils in dry summers without appreciable effects, are rendered available in those that are wet. The plants upon which our fertilizers have been applied during the past years, when the rainfall has been so deficient, produced wonderfully this season. The fertilizing substances have been lying dormant in the soil for the want of water to render them soluble or to hold them in solution, and this year the conditions have been favorable for promoting the changes, chemical and mechanical, necessary for plant food to be made available. Owing to the weather the wet three years, it has been difficult to conduct experiments with manures, and reach anything like reliable results. Hundreds of farmers have been misled, and have condemned as worthless manurial substances which had positive value, but which needed the usual meteorological agencies to render them assimilable. From ashing and stable manures, as well as chemical fertilizers, have not exerted their full influence upon soils to which they have been applied, because of the absence of rain. This season they have been thoroughly subject to the action of water, and crops have been benefited by the dormant manurial agents applied two or three years ago. Many cases could be cited which do not act promptly, unless they are blown away by the winds, or are washed into brooks by sudden and violent showers, which sometimes fall upon the baked earth in summer. If they remain in the soil to such favorable sessons, which are sure to come, will force them to give up to plants the food they contain, and the husbandman receives this returns in abundant crops.

SNAKE CHARMING.

A Nice Family of Pets—A Friendly Brazilian Boa—Handsome Playthings for the Children.

The eminent English zoologist. Mr. Frank Buckland, editor of *Land and Water*, tells the following extraordinary story in his newspaper.

Snakes are regarded with horror and repugnance by the generality of mankind and womankind, and for this reason their habits and instincts have not been sufficiently studied. Snakes may be broadly divided into poisonous and not poisonous. As a rule, poisonous snakes are not to be met with, if not attacked or insulted. I do not recommend people trying to tame poisonous snakes, nor do I advise them to charm them after the fashion of the Indian jugglers, though, as has been often shown, these poisonous snakes are generally "charmed," as regards their fangs, before the exhibition takes place. There is now in London a gentleman who has a charming family of pet snakes—harmless, of course. This gentleman is a snake charmer. He is a professor of music, and lives in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea. Mr. Mann called on me a day or two ago at my office, and requested me to give him assistance, as he has got into a bother with his neighbors about his long tin snakes.

Anxious to be of service to this gentleman, who called at his house to examine his snakery. He placed in the middle of the room a large box which was carefully locked. He told to me the box was always locked, unless he or his wife took out the snakes to feed or examine them. The first he produced from the box was a very fine common British snake (*Coluber natrix*). His snakes have all given names, and this one's name was Julia. Julia had long ago laid thirty-six eggs, which were hatched out successfully. The next was a fine specimen British snake. The ring around the neck was very bright in the sunshine, and therefore the name of Sylvia. Sylvia is very good at frogs; lately she ate nine frogs, seven large frogs and two small ones at one sitting, after the manner of the anaconda, which was carefully locked. He told to me the box was always locked, unless he or his wife took out the snakes to feed or examine them. The first he produced from the box was a very fine common British snake (*Coluber natrix*). His snakes have all given names, and this one's name was Julia. Julia had long ago laid thirty-six eggs, which were hatched out successfully. The next was a fine specimen British snake. The ring around the neck was very bright in the sunshine, and therefore the name of Sylvia. Sylvia is very good at frogs; lately she ate nine frogs, seven large frogs and two small ones at one sitting, after the manner of the anaconda, which other snakes, whose names are Proteus and Beatrice, are also of a golden hue. This modern snake-charmer then dived his hand into the box and brought out an exceedingly lively brown-colored snake. This snake is remarkable for its vivacity, hilarlike, and it has the power of moving the head very quickly from side to side; the eye is also remarkably brilliant. Mr. Mann brought from Jamaica. Jamaica it is called a Lacertine, and comes from the coast of Paragaior, Northern Brazil, and Guiana territories. Mr. Mann has had the Lacertine about twenty months. It is a pretty, elegant creature. It feeds on little pools.

Mr. Mann then showed me the gem of his collection. This is a remarkably handsome boa constrictor, measuring between five and six feet long, and weighing from twelve to fourteen pounds. The name of this snake is short for Cleopatra. Its natural handling and petting has caused this snake to become most remarkably tame, and I do not think there can be no doubt she knows individuals. When placed on the table Cleo would not come to me at all, but gidled away to her maker, who was sitting at the opposite side of the table, and, stretching her body from the table to the chair, gradually pulled her long length on to him. She then glided up his left side, and folded her coils round her neck, placed her head close to his ear, and protruded her long fork tongue for some minutes, quivering her black, forked tongue with evident pleasure. Mr. Mann's two little children played in a most delightful manner with the tame boa constrictor. Cleo, I recollect rightly, the marble children in the chimney-piece represented the same boa of about the same size as Mr. Mann's two children.

Cleo is a particular favorite of Mrs. Mann's, and I saw a very nice photograph of her, with Cleo coiled around her neck. I subsequently saw Mrs. Mann in the stable with her pet snake. Cleo has missed her skin several times, and it is curious to remark that she shed her skin in a very few days after Mr. Mann has the last skin shed. It is quite perfect, and as thin as tissue-paper; and I should think would make a good substitute for fly-paper. Cleo feeds principaly on pigeons. If a pigeon is put into her cage, and she is not hungry, she seems to make friends with the pigeons, and will not attempt to eat it. Should, however, a fresh pigeon be put into her cage, she will show signs of having a gushing once a fortnight, and two pigeons will just about her for this time. Mr. Mann has offered them, but Cleo always tries to climb upwards, whereas the Lacertine always seeks the ground. Cleo considers her master's children her playthings. Once, when they went out of town, Cleo was left behind. She pined and would not feed during their absence. When Mr. Mann's family returned, after six weeks sleepless, Cleo, on hearing her mistress' voice, instantly roused herself, glided rapidly round her, and kissed her face. She evidently recognized her kind friends and protectors.

Mr. Mann has also a wonderful Indian python, but this snake is not very well, and has private apartments to itself in a leather carpet-bag. The snakes will come out of Mr. Mann's hand. The common snakes eat frogs, and frogs only; the Lacertine eats white mice; the python delights in guinea-pigs. Altogether, I was exceedingly pleased with Mr. Mann's collection of snakes. By his very successful snake-taming he has opened up a new field for employment in natural history, and has shown what persevering kindness will do in taming snakes, poor creatures, which have hitherto been thought to have little or no intelligence.

What a Boy Knows About Girls.

Girls are the most unaccountable est things in the world—except a woman. Like the wicked flea, when you have them they ain't there. I can cipher clean over the improper fractions and the teacher says I do it first-rate; but I can't cipher out a girl, proper or improper, and you can't either. The only rule in arithmetic that hits their case is the double rule of two. They are as full of old Nick as their skin can hold, and they would die if they couldn't torment somebody. When they try to be mean they are as mean as pulsey, though they ain't as mean as they let on, except sometimes, and then you are a gone coon. I don't know the only way to get along with a girl when she comes to you with her nonsense is to give her tit for tat, and that will flummux her, and when you get a girl flummuxed she is as nice as a nice pin. A girl can sow more wild oats in a day than a boy can sow in a year, but girls get their wild oats sowed after a while, which boys never do, and then they settle down as calm and placid as a mud-puddle. But I like girls first-rate, and I guess the boys all do. I don't care how many tricks they play on me—and they don't very often either. Though the time in the world can always boil over like a glass of soda. By and by they will get into the traces with somebody they like, and pull as steady as an old horse. That is the beauty of them. So let them wave, I say; they will pay for it some day, sewing on buttons and try to make a decent man of the fellow they have spliced on to, and ten chances to one if they don't get the worst of it.

The Ant Lion.

In a late number of the *American Naturalist*, J. H. Emerton describes at length the peculiar habits and structure of the ant lion, *Myrmeleo immaculatus*. It appears that this ravenous little insect is endowed by nature with superior intelligence and displays great skill and cunning in the entrapping and securing of its prey. Having determined upon a suitable site, generally a clear sandy space under the shade of some shrub or boulder, it begins the construction of a miniature pitfall by first thrusting its long jaws into the soil and then under neath the grains of sand and then by a sudden upward jerk tossing them several inches beyond the edge of the hole. This operation is repeated until a funnel shaped hole is excavated the sides of which are as steep as the shifting nature will allow. When completed the ingenious little builder conceals his body at the bottom leaving only the extended jaws exposed. Here he awaits patiently until the unconscious victim, generally some smaller insect, approaches the edge of the treacherous pit, when the disturbance of the sand above warns the watcher below, and he begins to toss up the earth from beneath the unwary and heedless victim, thus deepening the pit and causing the sand on the shelving sides to slide down toward the center, bearing with it the prey to within reach of the extended jaws. The lower sides of these are provided with tubular channels, that serve as ducts to convey the blood of the victim to the mouth of the captor. After sucking the body dry, the carcass is tossed beyond the limits of the pit, which is at once repaired and made ready for the approach of the second visitor.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 13, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPR. SENTATIVES.

The House spent the entire day on the Appropriation bill. The Pittsburgh delegation got in the one hundred thousand dollars for the Western University, ten thousand to the Homeopathic Hospital, and five thousand to the Sheltering Arms. At half past five the bill had been gone through with, when the public calendar was taken up, and the county of Mimequa debated till seven o'clock.

Relief for the Liquor Interests.

A bill will be introduced next week to release all parties in cities and counties which vote "no license" from any agreements made with other parties prior to the passage of the Local Option law, for supplies or rent, and which cannot then be carried out.

At the night session the Centennial bill was the special order.

SENATE.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. Warfel—Act relating to the purchase and sale of real estate by building and loan associations.

Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia—To authorize the Auditor General to appoint an Inspector of Building and Loan Associations.

Mr. Humphreys—Supplement to Allegheny Fee bill.

Mr. McClure—To allow a charge of interest not exceeding ten per cent.

The Reduction of Taxes.

The act repealing personal tax and taxes on manufacturing and railroad companies being under consideration, it was amended by Mr. Wallace, that the corporations being benefited by the repeal should reduce their tolls for freights in an amount equal to the proposed reduction. The bill, after being debated at length, was referred to Finance Committee. The proposed bill, it is said, will reduce the taxes one and a half million dollars from the interests named in the bill.

The Screen Bill

was considered until adjournment. The penal clause was stricken out. Senator Humphreys made an eloquent speech in favor of the bill.

School Bill Recalled.

Mr. Warfel, by request of the Pittsburgh Board of Control, had an act relating to the election of School Directors referred from the Governor.

Bridge Bill Signed.

The Union Bridge bill was signed by the Governor this morning, and a certified copy taken home by H. M. Long, Esq.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 14, 1873.

SENATE.

Petitions.

By Mr. Humphreys—In favor of the passage of the Miners' Screen bill; also, remonstrance from Sharpsburg against the Allegheny sewerage bill.

By Messrs. Playford and Ruan—Against the repeal of the general railroad law.

Petitions in favor of the Centennial were presented from every county in the State.

A Cemetery Company.

On the bill to incorporate Bellevue Cemetery, negative, the Courts having power.

On the act to inspect oil for illuminating purposes; also, the act to repeal tax corporations and personal property, legalizing the election of commissioners to pave Carson, Main and Fifth streets.

Mr. Humphreys read in place an act to allow the Stevenson Paint and Varnish Company to make iron and steel hardware, and for other purposes.

The Screen Bill Passed.

The Screen bill came up for consideration. Mr. Playford having the floor, spoke against the passage of the bill.

Mr. Humphreys replied to Playford, and spoke in advocacy of the bill.

Mr. Playford tried to have the bill amended as far as it applied to mines supplying coke, but finally withdrew it, and the bill was put to store the penal clause. Mr. Playford opposed this, and the bill passed finally without the penal clause.

Tax Repeal Bill Passed.

The repeal of taxes on corporation and personal taxes was considered and passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House passed the Congressional Apportionment and then adjourned until next Tuesday.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 17, 1873.

The Consolidationists are now registered for their side. A large number of them arrived at the Locchiel last night.

There are over two hundred bills on the private calendar for to-morrow, with many Pittsburgh bills on the objected list.

The Philadelphia Sewer bill is on the calendar.

A large number of Pittsburgh city bills were brought over to-day, and Senators Wallace have already been discussed and passed Councils.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 12, 1873.

The Apportionment Committee in the House reported the Apportionment bill to-day, and as I sent it to you. There is the usual amount of dissent, but it is not loud or angry, and the indications are that the bill will go through without much variation.

The Appropriation bill, a copy of which I sent you, will come up in a day or two. It is overburdened with appropriations for illegitimate objects, and will bear considerable pruning. As it now stands it appropriates, in round numbers, $4,000,000; the reduction of the public debt will take $2,000,000; and there are bills pending or passed appropriating $100,000 for a new Insane Hospital in the northwest; $800,000 for the Centennial; $75,000 for Somerset; Constitutional Convention, $300,000; for fish dams, $30,000; expenses of inauguration and burial of Geary, $10,000; extending the public grounds, $60,000; for repairs at Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum, $25,000; Williamsport riots, $25,000—all, $7,150,000. The bill, however, before it gets through the House, will be increased at least $400,000; making $7,500,000; and at the same time there is a bill pending to reduce the taxes one-half on the personal tax, and the tax on gross receipts and net earnings, bringing down the revenue over a million. The receipts from taxes for 1872 were $7,150,000; say they are reduced $1,150,000, and we have a prospective revenue of $6,000,000 and an appropriation of $7,500,000, or $1,500,000 more than we have got. It is clear that we must either cut down the appropriation bill or postpone the reduction of taxation. As the latter will be most acceptable to the public, the House may as well address itself to the task of cutting the State's coat according to its cloth.

In the Senate, to-day, the public calendar was taken up and disposed of. Petriken got through his Erie bill. It appropriates $30,000 to make the experiment, in 1873 or 1874, of stocking the Susquehanna and its tributaries with migratory fish, and if the experiment succeeds $50,000 more is appropriated for further experiments in the other streams of the State in 1875. The money is to be expended by three Commissioners to be named by the Governor.

Mr. Wallace's bill to repeal the personal tax came up in its order, and the section was adopted, after which Mr. Stenton proposed additional sections, repealing the tax on net earnings and gross receipts. The bill was then postponed until to-morrow, in order to have the amendments printed. The amendments seem likely to prevail. The bill, as proposed to be amended, stands as follows:

AN ACT to repeal the State tax on horses, mules, cattle, trades, occupations and professions.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted*, That all laws or parts of laws now in force in this Commonwealth under and by virtue of which taxes for State purposes are levied and assessed upon horses, mares, geldings, mules, and neat cattle, shall be and they are hereby repealed so far as they give authority to impose rights to levy and collect taxes; provided, that this shall not take effect until the next meeting of the Board of Revenue Commissioners of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Strang offered to amend the bill by adding the following new sections, viz:

SEC. 2. That so much of the sixth section of the act entitled "An act to revise, consolidate and amend the several laws taxing corporations, brokers and bankers," approved May 1, 1868, as imposes a tax upon the net earnings or income of certain banking companies liable to the tax on capital stock under the fourth section of said act, be and the same is hereby repealed, and proposals to take effect from and after the first day of November, A. D. 1872.

Provided, That this act shall not be construed to release any taxes which accrued prior to the first day of November aforesaid, nor in any way to affect suits heretofore or hereafter instituted in the name of the Commonwealth for the collection of such taxes and the penalties and interest accruing thereon; but to release bankers, brokers or incorporated companies having no taxable capital stock for such purposes, the section hereby repealed shall cease; in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. That so much of the eighth section of the act last aforesaid as imposes a tax upon the gross receipts of railroad, canal and transportation companies be and the same is hereby repealed, said repeal to take effect from and after the first day of July next: *Provided*: That any company which has been exempt from the tax on tonnage by any special law, shall be liable to and pay the tax of three-fourths of one per centum upon their gross receipts; and that this act shall not be construed to release any taxes upon gross receipts accruing prior to the first day of July next, but the same may be collected heretofore or hereafter instituted in the name of the Commonwealth for the collection of such taxes and the penalties and interest attached thereto.

Among the other public bills acted on was one to repeal the Borough act of Buckland, establishing cumulative voting and substituting a plan for electing borough councilmen on the minority representation plan, three councilmen to be elected each year, to serve two years, and no voter to vote for more than two. Mr. Humphreys moved to strike out all that part establishing minority representation, so as simply to repeal the Buckland act. The motion was lost—yeas 49, nays 13, nays 12; and on a subsequent motion to postpone the bill the vote was, yeas 13, nays 14. The bill then passed to third reading. It is a lamentable sign of the times that men are seen to be getting over the sickly sentimentality affected by such mock statesmen as Buckalew, and which has afflicted us with such vagaries as cumulative voting. That quack nostrum was as popular as sugar coated pills, for a while; but like all other specifics, it has had its day. People are getting back, and more too soon, to the old, but fundamental idea of free government that the majority shall rule.

The other public bills acted on are not of much importance, and their titles sufficiently indicate their purpose. The Governor sent in two veto messages to-day, one vetoing the Hoboken bank of Pittsburgh, for the reasons set forth in the veto of the Woods' Run bank, and one vetoing a bill which authorized common carriers to sell all unclaimed goods without notice and whenever they pleased. The Governor treats this very properly, as a bill to confiscate, without a hearing, all baggage and parcels that go astray or get lost, through the mismanagement, often, of the common carriers themselves, and he declines to sign a bill giving this summary process.

Several bank bills were recalled from the Governor, and this is now in order all the time, in both Houses. Mr. Playford amended two of his bank bills this recalled, to-day, by adding a new section authorizing the banks to charge whatever rates of interest may be fixed now or hereafter, by law, and in that shape they go back to the Governor. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 13, 1873.

The Appointment Committee have succeeded in failing to-morrow for the consideration of the Appointments on the night.

At the night session the Centennial bill was the special order.

SENATE.

The following bills were introduced:

Mr. Warfel—Act relating to the purchase and sale of real estate by building and loan associations.

Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia—To authorize the Auditor General to appoint an Inspector of Building and Loan Associations.

Mr. Humphreys—Supplement to Allegheny Fee bill.

Mr. McClure—To allow a charge of interest not exceeding ten per cent.

The Reduction of Taxes.

The act repealing personal tax and taxes on manufacturing and railroad companies being under consideration, it was amended by Mr. Wallace, that the corporations being benefited by the repeal should reduce their tolls for freights in an amount equal to the proposed reduction. The bill, after being debated at length, was referred to Finance Committee. The proposed bill, it is said, will reduce the taxes one and a half million dollars from the interests named in the bill.

The Screen Bill

was considered until adjournment. The penal clause was stricken out. Senator Humphreys made an eloquent speech in favor of the bill.

School Bill Recalled.

Mr. Warfel, by request of the Pittsburgh Board of Control, had an act relating to the election of School Directors referred from the Governor.

Bridge Bill Signed.

The Union Bridge bill was signed by the Governor this morning, and a certified copy taken home by H. M. Long, Esq.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 14, 1873.

SENATE.

Petitions.

By Mr. Humphreys—In favor of the passage of the Miners' Screen bill; also, remonstrance from Sharpsburg against the Allegheny sewerage bill.

By Messrs. Playford and Ruan—Against the repeal of the general railroad law.

Petitions in favor of the Centennial were presented from every county in the State.

A Cemetery Company.

On the bill to incorporate Bellevue Cemetery, negative, the Courts having power.

On the act to inspect oil for illuminating purposes; also, the act to repeal tax corporations and personal property, legalizing the election of commissioners to pave Carson, Main and Fifth streets.

Mr. Humphreys read in place an act to allow the Stevenson Paint and Varnish Company to make iron and steel hardware, and for other purposes.

The Screen Bill Passed.

The Screen bill came up for consideration. Mr. Playford having the floor, spoke against the passage of the bill.

Mr. Humphreys replied to Playford, and spoke in advocacy of the bill.

Mr. Playford tried to have the bill amended as far as it applied to mines supplying coke, but finally withdrew it, and the bill was put to store the penal clause. Mr. Playford opposed this, and the bill passed finally without the penal clause.

Tax Repeal Bill Passed.

The repeal of taxes on corporation and personal taxes was considered and passed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House passed the Congressional Apportionment and then adjourned until next Tuesday.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 17, 1873.

The Consolidationists are now registered for their side. A large number of them arrived at the Lochiel last night.

There are over two hundred bills on the private calendar for to-morrow, with many Pittsburgh bills on the objected list.

The Philadelphia Sewer bill is on the calendar.

A large number of Pittsburgh city bills were brought over to-day, and Senators Wallace have already been discussed and passed Councils.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, March 12, 1873.

The Apportionment Committee in the House reported the Apportionment bill to-day, and as I sent it to you. There is the usual amount of dissent, but it is not loud or angry, and the indications are that the bill will go through without much variation.

The Appropriation bill, a copy of which I sent you, will come up in a day or two. It is overburdened with appropriations for illegitimate objects, and will bear considerable pruning. As it now stands it appropriates, in round numbers, $4,000,000; the reduction of the public debt will take $2,000,000; and there are bills pending or passed appropriating $100,000 for a new Insane Hospital in the northwest; $800,000 for the Centennial; $75,000 for Somerset; Constitutional Convention, $300,000; for fish dams, $30,000; expenses of inauguration and burial of Geary, $10,000; extending the public grounds, $60,000; for repairs at Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum, $25,000; Williamsport riots, $25,000—all, $7,150,000. The bill, however, before it gets through the House, will be increased at least $400,000; making $7,500,000; and at the same time there is a bill pending to reduce the taxes one-half on the personal tax, and the tax on gross receipts and net earnings, bringing down the revenue over a million. The receipts from taxes for 1872 were $7,150,000; say they are reduced $1,150,000, and we have a prospective revenue of $6,000,000 and an appropriation of $7,500,000, or $1,500,000 more than we have got. It is clear that we must either cut down the appropriation bill or postpone the reduction of taxation. As the latter will be most acceptable to the public, the House may as well address itself to the task of cutting the State's coat according to its cloth.

In the Senate, to-day, the public calendar was taken up and disposed of. Petriken got through his Erie bill. It appropriates $30,000 to make the experiment, in 1873 or 1874, of stocking the Susquehanna and its tributaries with migratory fish, and if the experiment succeeds $50,000 more is appropriated for further experiments in the other streams of the State in 1875. The money is to be expended by three Commissioners to be named by the Governor.

Mr. Wallace's bill to repeal the personal tax came up in its order, and the section was adopted, after which Mr. Stenton proposed additional sections, repealing the tax on net earnings and gross receipts. The bill was then postponed until to-morrow, in order to have the amendments printed. The amendments seem likely to prevail. The bill, as proposed to be amended, stands as follows:

AN ACT to repeal the State tax on horses, mules, cattle, trades, occupations and professions.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted*, That all laws or parts of laws now in force in this Commonwealth under and by virtue of which taxes for State purposes are levied and assessed upon horses, mares, geldings, mules, and neat cattle, shall be and they are hereby repealed so far as they give authority to impose rights to levy and collect taxes; provided, that this shall not take effect until the next meeting of the Board of Revenue Commissioners of this Commonwealth.

Mr. Strang offered to amend the bill by adding the following new sections, viz:

SEC. 2. That so much of the sixth section of the act entitled "An act to revise, consolidate and amend the several laws taxing corporations, brokers and bankers," approved May 1, 1868, as imposes a tax upon the net earnings or income of certain banking companies liable to the tax on capital stock under the fourth section of said act, be and the same is hereby repealed, and proposals to take effect from and after the first day of November, A. D. 1872.

Provided, That this act shall be construed to release any taxes which accrued prior to the first day of November aforesaid, nor in any way to affect suits heretofore or hereafter instituted in the name of the Commonwealth for the collection of such taxes and the penalties and interest accruing thereon; but to release bankers, brokers or incorporated companies having no taxable capital stock for such purposes, the section hereby repealed, shall cease; in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. That so much of the eighth section of the act last aforesaid as imposes a tax upon the gross receipts of railroad, canal and transportation companies be and the same is hereby repealed, said repeal to take effect from and after the first day of July next: *Provided*: That any company which has been exempt from the tax on tonnage by any special law, shall be liable to and pay the tax of three-fourths of one per centum upon their gross receipts; and that this act shall not be construed to release any taxes upon gross receipts accruing prior to the first day of July next, but the same may be collected heretofore or hereafter instituted in the name of the Commonwealth for the collection of such taxes and the penalties and interest attached thereto.

Among the other public bills acted on was one to repeal the Borough act of Buckland, establishing cumulative voting and substituting a plan for electing borough councilmen on the minority representation plan, three councilmen to be elected each year, to serve two years, and no voter to vote for more than two. Mr. Humphreys moved to strike out all that part establishing minority representation, so as simply to repeal the Buckland act. The motion was lost—yeas 49, nays 13, nays 12; and on a subsequent motion to postpone the bill the vote was, yeas 13, nays 14. The bill then passed to third reading. It is a lamentable sign of the times that men are seen to be getting over the sickly sentimentality affected by such mock statesmen as Buckalew, and which has afflicted us with such vagaries as cumulative voting. That quack nostrum was as popular as sugar coated pills, for a while; but like all other specifics, it has had its day. People are getting back, and more too soon, to the old, but fundamental idea of free government that the majority shall rule.

The other public bills acted on are not of

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14, 1873.

Ohio River Improvement.

The River and Harbor Appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, just received from the public printer, contains, in full, the following provisions for the improvement of the Ohio river and its tributaries, and to facilitate trade on those streams:

For the improvement of the Great Kanawha river, West Virginia, $25,000.

For the improvement of the Mississippi river, between the mouth of the Missouri river and the mouth of the Ohio river, $200,000.

For the improvement of the Ohio river, $200,000; and that Geofrey Weitzell, of the corps of engineers, United States Army, in charge of the Louisville and Portland canal, is hereby empowered and directed, subject to the approval of the Chief Engineer of said corps, to adjust and pay out of any money appropriated for the improvement of said canal to J. C. Dennis any legal or equitable claims he may have against the United States, arising out of work done by him under Hugh McGlincy and company's contract to perform work on said canal, in the years 1871 and 1872, and said Godfrey Weitzell is further authorized and directed to pay to said J. C. Dennis, in addition to the amount above provided for, such other sums as the said Weitzell shall find that said Dennis is legally or equitably entitled to as assignee of Hugh McGlincy and company, for work done by said Dennis on said improvement; *provided*, that such sums shall not exceed the amount due by the government of the United States for work done under said contract by Hugh McGlincy and company, and that the sums thus received of Weitzell shall be in full of the claim of said McGlincy and company under their contract, and in full of the claim of said Dennis as the assignee of said firm.

For completing the Louisville and Portland canal $150,000; and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to assume, on behalf of the United States, the control and

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, March 22, 1873.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1873.

ONE commendable feature of the report on Legislation submitted to the Constitutional Convention, is the provision that "no act of Assembly shall prescribe any limitation of time within which suits may be brought against corporations for injuries to persons or property, or for other causes different from that fixed by the general laws prescribing the time for the limitation of actions; and existing laws so prescribing are annulled and avoided; and no act of the Legislature shall limit the amount to be recovered for injuries to person." This section was adopted in Committee of the Whole on Tuesday.

FROM a comparison of the exports of our manufacturers during eight months of the last and preceding fiscal years, it would appear that we are making almost as encouraging headway in foreign markets as in the development of our industrial interests. These statistics show that during the period in question there was an increase of nearly twenty-five per cent. in the aggregate of our principal exports. The export of leather was nearly doubled in 1872; manufactures of iron and wood also found an active market abroad; and the increasing demand for our agricultural implements is another noticeable feature of these returns. These results are exceedingly gratifying, as affording additional proof of the reviving commerce and growing prosperity of the country.

TWO OR THREE weeks ago we stated that the Commissioners of the State Sinking Fund had determined to pay on presentation some $1,250,000 of the 5-10 six per cent. loans of the Commonwealth, being the certificates of $5,000 and under, and to stop the interest thereon after ninety days notice. Public announcement of this fact has now been made by State Treasurer MACKEY, who has caused notice to be given to the holders of the 5-10 series of loans created by the act of February 2, 1867, that interest will cease on all sums of $5,000 and under, on the 31st day of July, 1873, amounting in all to $1,265,900, the same being redeemable on presentation at the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank, Philadelphia. When it is considered that $750,000, semi-annual interest, falls due at the same time, and that the process of the reduction of taxation is steadily going on, one can the better appreciate the significance of the remark, recently made by a bitter and unscrupulous enemy of the State administration, that "results are the best rhetoric." It is to be hoped the proved wisdom of the observation may have the effect of thoroughly shaming the malevolent folly of its author.

THE FIRST movement in the United States to punish ministers of religion for exercising ecclesiastical discipline, is on foot in Michigan, the Legislature of which State has under consideration a bill authorizing the imposition of a fine of from one thousand to five thousand dollars, or imprisonment from one to ten years, on any ecclesiastical authority who shall excommunicate or otherwise discipline any member of his church, or threaten to do so, for the sake of preventing any such member from suing any church dignitary or any religious society for the protection of any claim or for the protection of his civil rights. While the terms of the bill are general, and intended to apply to all denominations, the measure appears to be principally directed against the Catholic Church, one of whose ecclesiastical dignitaries in that State is reported to have excommunicated a member who gave notice of his intention to bring suit against his spiritual adviser to recover money loaned for the defrayal of church expenses. The bill is modeled after one of the clauses of the new Prussian law on religion. It has passed the Senate, and will in all probability become a law, no opposition of moment having thus far been developed.

AN IMPORTANT amelioration in the official construction of the tariff has just been made by the Secretary of the Treasury, who has instructed Collectors of Customs to collect, hereafter, duties on Dutch metal at ten per cent., on bronze powder at fifteen, and on manufactures of brass at thirty-five per cent. *ad valorem*, under the act of March 3, 1861, rather than at ten per cent. reduction in the act of June 6, 1872. Heretofore the Department has held these articles dutiable, as manufactures of which copper is the component of chief value, at forty-five per cent. *ad valorem*. This ruling goes further than defining duties on the two articles mentioned, to declare that brass is a distinct manufacture, and should not be held dutiable as a manufacture of which copper is a component of chief value. Manufacturers of brass will therefore benefit to the 35 per cent. under the act of 1861, less 10 per cent. by the act of June 6, 1872, which makes the new duty 31½ per cent. *ad valorem*. It is not unlikely that this decision may raise questions regarding some other manufactured articles containing copper, and now paying duty as such. The Secretary has also decided that terne tin, in continuous sheets, for roofing purposes, shall pay the lower rate of duty, or fifteen per cent. *ad valorem*, as provided in the act of June 6, 1872. These rulings are of considerable importance to manufacturers generally.

McCLURE'S REMEDY.

The Registry law of Pennsylvania, regulating elections throughout the State does not apply to Philadelphia, which has a special Registry law of its own, in force only within its bounds.

Under the State law the voters are registered by the Assessors, and the Election officers are chosen by the people; but under the Philadelphia law the voters are registered by Canvassers, and the Canvassers and the Election officers are annually appointed by the Board of Aldermen. There are three Canvassers to each election division, a majority of whom are always of the same politics as the majority of the Board of Aldermen, without regard to the politics of the division they are appointed to canvass; but a majority of the election officers in the several divisions must be of the same politics as the majority of the voters in their respective divisions; so that in Democratic divisions or precincts two Democratic election officers are appointed and one Republican, and *vice versa*.

Under this system Mr. McCLURE says that the great frauds are practiced; he *says* so, mind you, but does not *prove* it; yet he has said so often without being contradicted that he assumes the failure to contradict on a confession of the truth of his charges. In a previous article we have put in our denial, *in toto*, of these allegations, and need not now repeat it; but let us now, for the sake of the argument, admit it. Concede, for the moment (and only for the moment), the alleged frauds; and what is his remedy? Does he propose to fall back on the reserved rights of the people, and to restore to them the right to choose their own Canvassers or Registers and Election officers? By no means. He professes great faith in the people; but he does not propose to trust them, nevertheless.

His remedy is to supersede the authority of the Board of Aldermen, in the premises, by transferring it to a board of four persons, two to be chosen by each political party. That, and nothing more. It is simply a substitution of a board of *four* for a board of *forty*, with the same powers and authority.

The theory is the fanciful one first introduced into our politics by that political dreamer, BUCKALEW, that a body equally divided in numbers between two parties is non-partisan, and will do its work in a non-partisan spirit. The theory is essentially false and foolish. A body equally divided in politics has simply no power to do any thing, but is not, therefore, non-partisan. In fact, partisan feelings never run so high as in such a body. Neither side will yield to the other nor permit the other to do any thing. We have had two or three trials of that in Pennsylvania. The Senate of this State was kept in a state of enforced idleness for nearly two months at the time when Gen. HANAY WHITE was a prisoner among the rebels, in Libby prison. The Rebels would not allow his resignation to be sent through their lines, and the Senate being thus left to stand sixteen Democrats and sixteen Republicans, the sixteen Democrats blocked the wheels of government and refused to permit a single thing to be done, until a special election could be held to supply the vacancy. That was an equally divided but not a non-partisan body; and that must be the fate of all similar bodies.

Mr. McCLURE thinks, however, that better election officers would be got in this way than the other; but we cannot, for the life of us, see how. The Canvassers in each election district are three, and the Election officers are three; a majority of these, therefore, *must* be of one political party or the other. You cannot divide three men into two equal parts; and this board of four, if they succeeded in appointing at all, would be compelled to appoint the majority in each case from the dominant party of their respective divisions, and to take such men as might be selected for them by the active men in each division, just as the Aldermen now do. There are over four hundred election divisions in that city, and there are no four men in it who can, of their own knowledge, select election officers for a tithe of them. Mr. McCLURE'S board, like the Board of Aldermen, would have to depend on local suggestions, and each party would thus, by its active men, practically select the election officers, just as they now do. There would be a different appointing power, but the results would be the same.

Would these four men, so selected, be any more honest or trustworthy than the Board of Aldermen? Not if the men hitherto chosen by either party, in that city, are fair specimens of the men who would be chosen for this task. On the other hand, would there not be more danger from a board of four men than from a board of forty? It is much easier to corrupt one man out of four than it would be to corrupt a board ten times as large; and the temptation to do it would be of the strongest kind. The manipulation of the returns in Philadelphia on the State ticket in October, 1856, elected the Democratic State ticket, and that secured the election of BUCHANAN to the Presidency. Had the Republican State ticket been declared elected, that year (as it really was), FREMONT would have been President, and the whole thing turned on Philadelphia. Just so, last year. If Philadelphia had given six thousand majority for BUCKALEW, he would have been elected; and his election would have carried GREELEY into the Presidency. Establish Mr. McCLURE'S board of four; give it entire control of the election in Philadelphia, and you give it, thereby, control of the election, not only in the city, but in the State, and in the nation. It is too much power to put in the hands of any four men that Philadelphia politics have ever yet turned up, or is ever likely to. So much would depend on their action, so much would hang on their decisions, so many personal and political interests would be involved therein, that no consideration would keep extraneous influences from being brought to bear upon them. There are thousands of them, there, in both parties, who would be glad to have such a chance in their hands, and there are thousands there who would fight fiercely to *get* the chance, with all the odds in favor of some of them winning; and the few whom such a chance would not be likely to mislead, would, if by any miracle they got into such a board, be compelled to cry out continually to be delivered from the temptation. We repeat, it is too much power to put into so few hands; and if the plan should be adopted, the city and the cause of purity in elections would be losers instead of gainers. The last state of that city would be worse than the first.

If any change is to be made in Philadelphia we do not like the plan. We do not concede the necessity of the change, and above all, we deny emphatically the trumped-up charges on which a change is asked for. But, if any change is to be made at all, the only one that can be justified is to return to the people of that city the power to choose those own election officers. It was taken from them and given to the Board of Aldermen; and if taken from the latter, it should go back where it came from and where it properly belongs. It would be no more to the people to take this power from one autocratic board and give it to another. The people are the source of all power. To them belongs the right of choosing their own election officers. Restore it to them. The people in the rest of the State have this power; why not the people of Philadelphia as well? Let us have no half-way measures. The people can be trusted and should be. All change is not reform; and the change proposed by McCLURE is neither a reform nor a remedy. The choice of election officers by a board is an anomaly in a free government; and an attempt to choose them by a board equally divided would either result in their total inability to agree, or in a bargain and sale that would be as disgraceful as it would be destructive to the principles on which our government is based. Change the present plan if you will; but the change proposed in Mr. McCLURE'S bill, to restore the power of choosing all election officers to the people, is the only one that can be deemed safe, or wise, or statesmanlike.

A SOMEWHAT novel temperance society has just been organized in Great Britain, in the shape of a "Church of England Association," composed chiefly of members of the Episcopal clergy, under the Presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This society does not require any of its members to abstain entirely, but allows those to drink who fear not to become drunk. Its officers state that the society is open to assistance from all parties, and that its great objects will be to explain and enforce the provisions of the laws against drunkenness, and the formation of a sound public opinion on the connection between intemperance and the undue facilities and temptations for drunkenness provided by the present license system in that country. At a late meeting of the association it was agreed to raise fifty thousand dollars a year for five years to promote the work. As a rule, it clergymen of the Established Church are excellent judges of good wines; and the question will be likely to suggest itself to not a few persons whether it will not be futile for these spiritual advisers to lecture the average British workman upon his love of beer, when he knows that they often drink as much wine at one sitting as would keep him in the former beverage for a month. Poor ARTEMUS WARD was so intensely patriotic during the war as to be willing to sacrifice all his wife's relatives on the altars of his country's freedom. In some respects this looks like a parallel case.

From the replies received by the Agricultural Department in answer to its annual inquiries regarding the comparative numbers and prices of domestic animals, it appears that there is an increase in horses, cattle and sheep, while the aggregate of swine is nearly equal to the total of last year. The advance is not heavy, but is most important in sheep, amounting to about a million, or nearly one per cent., exclusive of the Territories. The increase in horses is about two per cent., and nearly the same in cattle. A slight increase in mules is also apparent. The increase of horses is mostly confined to the New England States; in mules chiefly to the Middle States, while the decrease in cows is confined almost entirely to the Southern States. Those in which there is no change of the number of cows are Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky. The prices of farm stock are better sustained than in nearly all sections of the country. Sheep are somewhat higher in certain sections, and a trifle lower in others. The price of milch cows is nowhere advanced in New England except slightly in the North. Horses bring the average highest price in New Jersey; oxen in Maine, and that of mules is highest in the Southern States. A continued advance in the price of sheep is apparent throughout the country, while that of hogs has increased in New England. These facts are of considerable importance to farmers and stock dealers in general.

A Beautiful Incident.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *World* writes: A very beautiful incident occurred here New Year's Day, and was so creditable to those "dreadful Americans" as to be worthy of circulation. A "rich American"—to the Parisians all Americans are rich—was promenading in the Boulevard des Capricines with his little four-year-old daughter. While they were looking into the shop windows, and particularly at the baraques—the small wooden shops set down on the sidewalks near their entrances during holiday week—a troupe of organ girls from one of the religious institutions was passing, in charge of two Sisters, and wearing a badge of blue ribbon. The attention of the party of American was attracted to the poor girls, and asking her papa who they were was told that they were poor orphan girls to whom the New Year brought neither bonbons nor presents. "Then," she cried, "papa, it is necessary that we buy them some!" And following the child's suggestion the father exchanged a few words with the Sisters, and then began a distribution of gifts, completely buying out three of the baraques. The child stood by looking on in perfect delight, while the unusual occurrence attracted the attention of the passers by, until an immense crowd had gathered to look upon the American method of doing Santa Claus. Blessed little child.

The Coming Religion.

Henry Ward Beecher, in his sermon delivered on Sunday morning, the first since his return from his Western tour, concluded with this language:

"While men are writing and talking about what the coming religion is to be I go to the scientist and say, What shall be the coming religion? He lifts his glass and sweeps it through the stella universe and says, 'The stars on their path say it is not in them; I ask Maury, and he says, 'The ocean says it is not in me;' I ask Tyndall, and he says, 'Nature says it is not in me;' I ask Huxley, and he asks all the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, and all comes back and say, 'It is not in me.' I take the hand of my counsellor and guide, and he says, 'The religion of the future is the religion of the past.' The religion of the present; it is God himself. God, love, that is religion. Love God, love each other, not developed by the church, or by creed, or by ordinance: the religion of the future is surely this: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself.' That is the religion of the universe."

Just before the Quinnipiac Paper Company, of Wallingford, Conn., suspended, a man stepped into the First National bank at New Haven, where their funds were deposited, with one of their checks, drawn for $500 which he wanted cashed. The cashier told the man whose name, by the way, is John Smith, that the Quinnipiac Company's deposits did not amount to that sum. "How much money have you to their credit?" asked Smith. "Three hundred and fifty dollars." "Allow me, then, to deposit ten dollars, for the benefit of the company." This was done, and Smith then presented his check, drew out the $300, and departed. The next day the company failed, but John Smith, by his fortunate deposit of ten dollars had saved $350.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The rumors of a consolidation of all the minor telegraph companies into one, of sufficient magnitude to pretend to rivalry with the Western Union, thicken again, and there can be little doubt that such a plan is being carried out.

Governor BIX has concluded that people who get drunk and brain other people with car hooks, belong in fee simple to the hangman,—even if they have enjoyed the advantages of a religious education in the Sunday school of Rev. Dr. Tyng.

In Maine, excellent oysters are manufactured out of flour paste, tapioca, salt and water. Maine might also manufacture better statesmen if she would only use less paste and more salt.

A good many of the minority who voted against the salary grab seem to consider that they have thus discharged their obligations to virtue, and that they may now pocket the money along with the Butlerites. Let them remember that the receiver is as bad as the thief.

The Boston religious papers are horrified to know that a colored man, a barber, was detected in the Boston Public Library, last Sunday, reading Blackstone's commentaries! He confessed he intended to be a lawyer. This is doubtless a thing of the past.

Now every robin redbreast takes himself a mate. Say the birds, sing the birds, It is wrong to wait Till the lily footed spring glides out at summer's gate.

A French commission has recently made a report, reviewing all the methods employed in the manufacture of absinthe, and the great loss of life entailed by its use in France. They recommend that this article be included in the list of poisons, and that its sale be interdicted.

Notwithstanding the immense crop of wheat raised in California, the splendid fruit crops, the amount of wine manufactured, and the amount of gold mined, the cry is that California is experiencing very hard times.

The heirs of Robinson Crusoe have begun suit to recover possession of the Island of Juan Fernandez.

The quality and the price of gas in Boston and other cities of Massachusetts is a subject of interest in the Legislature of that State. It might be made one in ours.

The Common Council of St. Paul, Minnesota, recently authorized one of its committees to borrow fourteen thousand dollars without interest. The money has not been procured, yet.

Southwestern Virginia is shipping north a thousand barrels of eggs daily. Southern pullets have grown industrious since the war.

"Why do all true Bostonians gravitate naturally toward Unitarianism?" asked one clergyman of another, lately, by way of solemn conundrum. "Why," was the answer, "because having been born in Boston they cannot conceive it necessary to be born again."

The foreign importations for the past week, including dry goods, amounted to $9,974,593; exports (exclusive of specie), $5,398,814. Imports from 1st of January to date, $98,446,214, against $81,851,967 last year. Exports from 1st of January to date (exclusive of specie), $46,698,289, against $41,971,329 last year.

At this seemingly premature period preparations are being made at Saratoga and Long Branch for the ensuing season.

The first case of redemption of property sold for non-payment of "insurrectionary districts" was that of William Sinclair, of Baltimore, on Friday of last week. His was the Quincy property in Florida.

A quicksilver shower is reported at San Ignacia, Mexico. This is something new in the way of ig naceous or other meteoric phenomena. Flakes were silver-colored with the beautiful metal, and many drops secured by the curious and scientific for analysis and investigation.

The new American steamship Pennsylvania, launched on the 15th of August last, is almost ready for sea. She is pronounced one of the finest ocean steamships afloat, but her qualities are yet to be tested.

Recent investigations by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce disclose the fact that to obviate the mildew occasioned by contact with moisture or damp, a great many chemical compounds, some of them poisonous, have been introduced into cotton fabrics to neutralize the effects of leaden sizing.

A new cause for railway accidents has been discovered in the overworking of the engineers and firemen who run the locomotives. Several cases have been noted of late in which accidents actually occurred, or have been barely escaped, by the sleeping of the engineers while waiting at stations or on side-tracks.

The St. Louis Grain Association has shipped about twenty full cargoes of grain to Liverpool via New Orleans, of which every cargo but two arrived out in excellent condition.

Earl Russell, long promised book on Christianity is to appear in the course of March. Its full title is, "The Rise and Progress of the Christian Religion in the West of Europe, from the reign of Tiberius to the end of the Council of Trent." It will doubtless be republished in this country.

Canada wants a name for a newly discovered island in one of its unpronounceable lakes, which is said by trappers to swarm with beavers enough to supply the fur trade for all time.

As the severity of winter moderates the death rate of New York city begins to rise upward. Last week the mortality was equal to an annual rate of twenty-nine per one thousand, being a good deal higher than the latest ascertained average of the capitals of Western Europe.

Maine has had six feet ten and a half inches of snow this season.

The Democracy will be compelled to take a back seat in the next Congress. The Senate will stand fifty-one Republicans to twenty-three Democrats, including Sumner, Tipton, Fenton and Schurz, and the House will probably have one hundred and ninety-six Republicans to ninety-three Democrats.

There is much discontent in England among the shareholders of the Emma mine, of which our Minister at London, General Schenck, was formerly one of the directors.

Spring, for farming work, this year, is three or four weeks behind last year, but as the frost and snow disappear, the indications already are that a month or six weeks hence the season will be quite as well advanced as last year.

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast." An Indian tribe in Wisconsin has actually organized a brass band. But on the whole the neighbors rather prefer the musical war-whoop.

A family of three persons, adults, two brothers and a sister, residing in the forest near Ypsilanti, Michigan, although owning a comfortable dwelling house, refuse to live therein, and occupy a rude pen of logs, built up to the height of a man's breast, without roof or floor. In this they eat and sleep, burrowing in the snow at night. Notwithstanding the extremely cold weather of the past winter, the mercury frequently reaching thirty degrees below zero, they do not seem to have suffered.

The New York *Tribune* characterizes Dion Boucicault's new play, "Dot," as "dismally artificial, popular success," and "a great literary achievement." "It is nobly conceived; it is beautifully executed; and it is original."

One-third of all the sailing vessels, and two-thirds of all the steamships of the civilized world, carry the British flag. The United States come next. The commercial navies of the present day number 56,727 sailing vessels, measuring 14,543,309 tons, and 4,833 steamships, measuring 3,680,670 tons.

Archæologists sympathize with the Russian invasion of Khiva. It is supposed to have been the home of that Jason who sought the Golden Fleece, Persia and Europe. The fanatical Mahommedanism of the people has hitherto operated as an almost absolute check on exploration.

Even his enemies shall praise him. The Baltimore *Gazette*, a bitter Democratic paper, is compelled to admit that the nomination of Washington Bouis as Collector of that port is well calculated to give entire satisfaction in commercial circles.

The Shenandoah valley is said to produce more from a given amount of agricultural labor, and to be freer of sickness of all kinds than any portion of the United States.

Flower seeds, in immense quantities, are smuggled in letter envelopes, and some of them are worth $20 an ounce in gold. As these letters cannot be opened by Custom House officers, it is proposed to hold them till called for and compel the owner to open them before the customs authorities.

The Legislature of Illinois had on Saturday last been in session eleven weeks and had passed only two bills, one of which was adopted to enable the other to go into effect.

A constitutional amendment restoring suffrage to some twenty thousand citizens of Arkansas has just been submitted to the people and approved by a large majority of the Legislature. About two thousand negroes voted against it, but the Republicans generally refrained from voting at all, and permitted it to be carried by about one-third of the Democratic voters, while the other two-thirds stayed away.

A detroit butcher has a sign hanging over his retail scales which reads: "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight." (Proverbs, Chap. XI., 1st verse.)

In an Illinois coal mine, the other day, while the workmen were "running a fault," they struck into a tree, supposed to be black walnut, imbedded in the vein of coal 500 yards below the surface, and from 200 to 250 feet from the mouth of the drift. How did it get there?

And now a Dulutbian claims to have made the discovery of almost inexhaustible iron deposits a short distance from the head waters of the Two-Islands river, on the north side of Lake Superior.

The cattle disease, or pleuro-pneumonia, is spreading very rapidly in the vicinity of New York. Nearly all the cows in some districts are affected with it, and most of the milk now comes from diseased cows.

The National Pahquioque bank, of Danbury, Connecticut, received a one dollar bill issued by that bank when a State institution, September 1, 1860, on the back of which was written: "Received for a load of potatoes from a rebel prisoner in Libby Prison, April 4, 1865, the day after the evacuation."

And now we have the still more ominous report of a regular trades union formed by the servant girls of Ottawa, in Ontario. We all know what trades unions are, but we have never yet had their inconveniences brought home to our firesides.

There is a belt of sand in Missouri, the finest article in the United States for the manufacture of glass. This belt takes the form of an ellipse, with St. Louis as a central point, the outer edge extending some forty odd miles north and west, and dipping into the Mississippi a day's journey south from St. Louis.

Good news for the poor. Several companies are organizing in the East to manufacture sewing machines, and it is predicted that sixty-five dollar machines will sell at thirty-five dollars within a year.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has just rendered a decision which fixes the permanency of what is known as the State Temperance Law. Six agreed cases seem to that court, and have been decided in favor of the law. Under the ruling the seller is put on the lookout for trouble, and made responsible for whatever evil may result from the traffic in which he is engaged.

The General Assembly of Iowa, at its recent session, made physiology one of the common school branches, and hereafter no teacher's certificate can be granted by county superintendents to parties who are unable to pass an examination in this study.

It is perhaps a question worthy of consideration whether lager beer and pure native wines should not bear a place separate from the general classification of intoxicating liquors.

The Boston *Globe* presents an exhibit of the commerce of that city which is very encouraging. The imports for March, 1873, amount to $5,027,725, against $4,570,823 for March, 1872. The average weekly value of the imports since January, 1873, is $1,292,274, while the grand total value of the foreign imports from March 1, 1872, to March 1, 1873, is $73,668,875, against $61,716,068 from March, 1871, to March, 1872.

Southern planters are reported to be devoting nearly all their lands to cotton, reducing the grain crops in an alarming manner. More's the pity, as they will find to their cost, in the end.

The Court House clock in Norwich, Connecticut, has been frozen up all winter. Last Saturday it had thawed sufficiently to allow the hands to move three inches.

Navigation on Lake Michigan has been resumed. The first Chicago steamer of the season reached Milwaukee harbor on Monday, and the first Milwaukee steamer of the season has also reached Chicago.

The following concise and comprehensive note was sent to an Illinois merchant, by a neighboring farmer, the other day: "Send me a trace-chain and two hinges. Jane had a baby last night—also five padlocks."

The State of Nevada legalizes gaming, and reaps $15,000 a year from licenses to gamblers. An effort is now making to abolish this barbarism.

It may not be generally known that it is now unlawful for tobacco-chewers to beg a chew. The United States Internal Revenue law allows no person or persons to sell or dispose of tobacco in any form, no matter how small or great the bulk, without first paying a license of five dollars.

PERSONAL.

President Grant, on taking the oath of office at his last inauguration, kissed these words in the 11th chapter of Isaiah: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and he shall let him judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

Mr. John Livingstone, the brother of the African explorer, has met with a heavy disaster in the destruction by fire of his business establishment in Lockwell, Canada, recently. The same fire destroyed a great part of the business section of the town.

Another American citizen has risen to eminence in Paris. His name is Harry Buck, and the trite comparison of the ace of spades doesn't begin to tell the story of his blackness. Born at Richmond, Virginia, he was a slave until he was twenty-two years old, when he ran away and joined a circus. There he learned the art of juggery, which he has practiced ever since, with the exception of a short term of service in the Union army. For the past two years he has been at Paris, latterly at the National circus, where he has attracted large audiences.

Old John Harper is going to mortgage all his property, and stake the money on a last race.

Cornelius A. Logan, the newly appointed Minister to Chili, is a prominent citizen of Leavenworth, Kansas, and was one of the best known of the candidates for the Senate in opposition to Pomeroy.

William Shakespeare is attracting the attention of London musical circles. He is described as having already won high honors at the Royal Academy, and as a lad of "considerable promise." Imprimis!

A private letter from Paris states that one of the most renowned professors of that city, who has taught Trebelli and Nilsson, has under instruction two most promising American ladies, whose prospects for musical success are very flattering. She is a native of Baltimore, a young lady about twenty years old, and the professor prophesies that after two years more of study she will be ready to appear on the prima donnas before the public. Her voice is remarkable for its purity and power, and she is extraordinarily facile in acquiring a role. Mr. Lanzart's original "Magic Flute," a part of which few prima donnas ever attempt, was accomplished after only a lady who was impelled by loss of fortune to choose this method of making both a living and a reputation. She will make her *début* in the English concert world next season under the name of "Madame Clariva."

Miniature likenesses of George Washington and Martha Washington are for sale in Boston. The history and description of these pictures is given as follows: They were given by Lord Fairfax to Washington himself to his sister, Betty Lewis. In distributing her valuables she (Mrs. Lewis) gave them to her granddaughter, Miss Lear, who left them as a legacy to her daughter, Eleanor Carter, who bequeathed them to her son, John Patterson, who is their present owner. They are painted in a plain, but solid gold frame, after the style of the antique medallion portraits, and are set in a plain locket. When first from frequent handling is well worn. The pictures are each surrounded with hair of the originals, and are now placed with them to enhance their value as souvenirs.

Miss Braddon is detected in an amusing *lapsus* in her last novel. The heroine tells her lover, in an early chapter of the book, that she has never been on London, and in a later chapter she tells another party of her visit to that city in girlhood with her father, and what she saw there. Heroines doubtless do do sometimes.

The knowing ones now say that Augustin Daly furnished Victorien Sardou with the points for his play "L'Oncle Sam;" that the prohibition of its production in Paris was purely commercial, as an advertisement for New York. What will be the next managerial dodge?

It is reported that Hon. Augustus Schell, who has lived to a mature age as a bachelor, is about to lead to the altar Miss Anna Fox, daughter of the late George S. Fox, of New York. Miss Fox is a lady of unusual intelligence and beauty, and is the very blue blood of New York Quakerism, and is some ten or twelve years younger than her affianced husband.

Dr. Deems, of New York, authorizes the announcement that the commodore Vanderbilt has given $500,000 to Bishop McTyeire, of the Southern Methodist Church, to establish a university in Tennessee.

Carlos Patti, a prominent musician, and brother of Adelina and Carlotta Patti, died in Cincinnati, yesterday, of consumption.

Oakey Hall is looming up rather prominently in professional life in New York. He raised a novel point in a suit he was defending yesterday, that the city charter of 1870 repealed all existing ordinances. And the Court sustained his objection.

Thomas Holloway, the well known patent medicine man, who amassed something like $60,000,000 from the sale of his compounds, which are so widely circulated advertisements, will cure anybody of any ailment, has determined to use the great amount of wealth he has acquired for philanthropic purposes, and will found, endow, and build a Hygeiopriateness which a cynic can scarcely overlook, commencing with the building of a lunatic asylum for the people of England is a model lunatic asylum for the middle classes, to be erected at a cost of half a million sterling, and to cover 100 acres of landscape. Other plans will take concrete embodiment by and by, and all will be devoted to the object of usefulness during the lifetime of the donor.

The English infidel, Mr. Bradlaugh, at the conclusion of a recent lecture, called upon any person to reply to his argument. A Christian gentleman took what remained from the platform. A cobbler rose and spoke—somewhat as follows: "Mister Bradlaugh, me and my mate Jim were both Methodists, till one of these infidel chaps came this way. Jim turned infidel, and used to laugh at me about attending prayer meetings; but one day in the pit a large pile of coal came down upon Jim's head. I thought he was killed, and, ah, mon! but he did holler and cry to God. Then turning to Mr. Bradlaugh, with a knowing look he said, 'You see, sir, there's now't like cobs of coal for knocking infidelity out of a man.'"

The German papers note a very singular event which occurred on the 15th ult, at Lichtenstein. Christian Friederich Lange and his wife, Emily Wilhelmina Lange, *nee* Leifert, celebrated on that day their seventy-fifth wedding anniversary. The husband has reached the ripe old age of 100 years, while his spouse has seen the snows of 98 winters pass over her head. If the celebration of the six-fifth anniversary is called for, we recommend what are we to call that of the sugenty fifth anniversary? Some etymological nomenclature seems to give out at that age.

It will be a surprise to many to know that Washington Irving was a confessed orchard thief. Once, while picking up an apple under a tree in his own orchard, he was accosted by an urchin of the neighborhood, who, not recognizing him as the proprietor, offered to show him a tree where he could "get some tree-mendous ones." "But," said Irving, "we must take care the old man doesn't see us." "I went with him," said Irving, "and we stole a dozen of my own apples."

Mr. John Stuart Mill, Professor Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. Moncure D. Conway, Dr. Appleton, Major Evans Bell and Mr. Sidney Colvin, are mentioned among the founders of a new society in London. The association will be devoted to conversation on leading topics of the day, and special political tenets are not requisite for membership.

OHIO NEWS.

The recent failure of extensive cattle dealers in Circleville—Wm. Cochran, Nathan Cochran and the Messrs. Parcels—for about $375,000, "stuck" the Chillicothe banks to the amount of $40,000, and is said to have "scorched" several Columbus men.

There was filed on Friday at the office of the Secretary of State the certificate of incorporation of the Bousfield & Poole Manufacturing Company to manufacture woolen ware. Location, Cleveland. Capital stock, $500,000.

A Cincinnati seamstress uses a gray squirrel as a motive power for running her machine, and well he does his work—not only sewing straight seams, but hemming and hedging a ruffle as neatly as could be done by human hands.

Cleveland is to have an addition of five or six square miles of territory on the west, south and eastern sides, by the annexation of surrounding villages. This gives Cleveland an area of about twenty-three square miles and a population of nearly 130,000.

Jacob Bruner and Mary Lease, a Germantown pair of lovers, were recently married. Their courtship lasted ten years.

The Central Ohio Teachers' Association will meet in Columbus on the 4th and 5th of April.

Mr. John Bender informs the editor of the Sandusky *Register* that his fives seedling grapes are very little injured by the frost, and he expects to harvest a good crop from them this fall. Other varieties more or less blighted.

Mrs. Frank Hale, of Wakeman, while returning home from visiting a neighbor, Thursday, was waylaid by a strange man, dragged into a thicket, and outraged. A man was arrested on suspicion but Mrs. Hale failed to identify him.

On the 19th of July, 1870, Mrs. Aurora Love, of Jackson township, in Jackson county, took a pig that was then a mere baby, and raised it from a sucking bottle and raised it. When she first took charge of it, it weighed twelve ounces. From its coming out of the woods, 1,500 pounds of pork now now and pigs for five dollars, gave one sow to one of her children when married, left that will weigh over one hundred pounds each.

Mr. Deford, of Washington township, Carroll county, is one hundred and three years old.

Fire broke out last week Mrs. Felix Roberts, living near Union Mills, Scioto county, was burned to death in her own house.

The growing wheat says the Norwalk *Experimentalist*, it is reported, looks remarkably well in the spring notwithstanding the extreme cold weather of the past winter.

In the First Baptist church, in Piqua, on Sabbath evening last, a young lady (Miss Stoker) was to be baptized by immersion, and while passing up the aisle, robed for the ceremony, fell dead of heart disease.

R. W. Spargur, Clerk of Highland county, died of small-pox on Wednesday of last week. His daughter, Miss Laura V. Spargur, died of this disease a few days previously, and two or three other members of the same family are now down with the same disease.

J. R. Keckley, while digging the ground for the foundation of the new barn to be erected on the infirmary farm, near Noble county, discovered a vein of iron ore two feet thick, which he says is sixty-five per cent. pure ore.

The Painesville *Advertiser* says that a few days since the old Mormon temple in Kirtland, near Lakeville, was sold to Joe Smith, the leader of the anti-polygamy Mormons. The sale of the old building has made considerable excitement in Kirtland, as it is generally supposed that the appearance in town of the Mormon people who are now settled in Illinois mean to return to their early settlement. There has been much of late to assure one in this expectation, and we think we may safely predict that the walls of the curious old temple will soon echo the words of Mormon priests, and that the quiet people of Kirtland will again have a topic of universal interest, not only to themselves, but to the "world at large." Joe Smith who purchased the temple, is the son of one of the leading Mormons, Joe Smith, the Prophet, or the author of "the pretended revelation."

Wild pigeons are making their appearance in greater numbers, in many portions of the Miami valley, than have been seen for several years past.

ADDITIONAL STATE NEWS.

Henry McBride, a man of intemperate habits, was found dead in his shanty, in the suburbs of Oil City, on Sunday. He had been drinking to excess for a long time, and his family were compelled to leave him on that account, last fall, and removed to the neighborhood of this city.

The Titusville *Herald* says: "A lad named Hesh, living on Barnsdall Hill, was accidentally shot in the throat yesterday afternoon by a careless sportsman. Luckily for the boy, the wounds are not dangerous." Fshaw! that's nothing. Hundreds of "boys" in the oil region get shot in the throat frequently, and seem to like it.

Mr. William Young, an experienced fruit culturist, of Reading, writes as follows to the *Times and Dispatch*: "Upon investigation made in grape vines, I am sorry to find that most of the vines in our district are completely injured by the severe cold of this winter, with the exception of the Clinton vines, which are as yet good. The Concord may run up next best, but the other kinds are nearly all gone. This has never happened, in my recollection, in our section before by the severity of the winters."

The Philadelphia *Sunday Dawn* gives the following statistics of the Improved Order of Red Men in Pennsylvania: There are 162 tribes in the State, comprising 15,792 members. Of these there are 16 Past Grand Sachems and 1,052 Past Sachems. The delay in the Order recorded for the past fiscal year are 124. The receipts of all the tribes, $102,332 92. Paid out of the relief fund, $36,581 9; for the benefit of brothers. For the benefit of widows and orphans of decease sed brothers, $8,021, making a total of $32,662 76. The Order is strongest in the State, Ohio coming next, then Maryland, California, &c.

A deed twenty-seven feet in length has been filed for record in the county recorder's office.

There appeared in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger* last week notices of the deaths of thirteen persons—six men and seven women—who had lived beyond the advanced age of eighty years, or about three months. The deceased were: Hannah Wilson, 82; John Robinson, 83; Alan Brown, 83; Nathan Amos, 84; Ann Stevens, 85; Wm. Edwards, 85; Sarah Gimckin, 87; John Musgrave, 80; Elizabeth Wolohon, 90; Harriet Stagner, 93, and Martha Jackaway, 94.

The wife of Hon. J. Lawrence Getz died at his residence in Reading, on Sunday, after a lingering illness from dropsy.

A suburb of Philadelphia has a society calling itself the Sons and Daughters of Emergency. They must not be confounded with Invention, which, as everybody knows, is the child of Necessity.

Our lumbermen, says the Brookville *Republican*, have announced the work of rafting in their lumber, but an unusual lethargy seems to prevail, as if the usual hurry to get to market did not crowd all other considerations aside. We learn of some timber changing hands in the banks of the river, the prices paid being higher than those secured for some years past. The general impression that a short crop has been taken out has brought about this favorable state of things.

A lodge of Knights of the Mystic Chain has been organized in Johnstown.

Mr. George Ackerman, a prominent citizen of Latrobe, and for several years past postmaster of that town, died on Saturday last from injuries received from being thrown from a sleigh a few weeks ago.

The meditative cluck of the hen, the unassuming grunt of the hog as he scratches his back, and boxes nodding up loafers in front of the stores, reminds the editor of the Tidioute *Journal* that spring is once more here.

The Wilkesbarre correspondent of the Scranton *Times* writes, under date of the 15th: Last night in Plymouth borough a party was out serenading and drumming a newly married couple who were in a house alongside of one occupied by William Wallis, a half witted person. For some unexplained reason he took offense at the performance and opened fire with a gun in his hand and fired into the crowd. An Englishman named Harris received the charge in his head and was instantly killed. Wallis was arrested at once and placed in the lock-up.

The borough of Manheim, Lancaster county, voted on the license question on Saturday. The vote in favor of licence was 171 to 57 against license.

The Lebanon car works are being rapidly reconstructed. They will be in operation in a short time.

Berks county has a female resident (

WELLSBURG, W. VA.

The Fire on Friday Morning—Suffocation of Nathaniel Richardson, Esq., of Wheeling.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

LA GRANGE, O., March 14, 1873.

Wellsburg, W. Va., is all excitement this morning over a fire which broke out about three o'clock this morning in the saloon of Conrad Feterer, destroying his saloon and residence, also the furniture store of John D. Lloyd, adjoining. Mr. Lloyd saved the greater portion of his furniture. His loss on building, furniture and material is estimated at three thousand dollars; insured for one thousand dollars in the Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Wheeling. Feterer's loss is estimated at about twenty-five hundred; insured for nineteen hundred in the German Fire Insurance Company, of Wheeling. It was by the greatest efforts of the firemen and citizens that the Court House and the residence of the Hon. Appleton Ewing, on either side, were saved from the fire. They are both damaged. The buildings on the opposite side of the street were scorched by the heat.

The most lamentable of the whole affair was the finding of the dead body of N. Richardson, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Wheeling, and counsel in the late murder trial of Briceland at Washington, Pa., in an alley in the rear of the saloon. His face and hands were somewhat burned. He was in the saloon at a late hour last night, and was seen carried out by individuals at about the time of the discovery of the fire. By some it is supposed his death has been caused by foul play. The Sheriff has empanneled a jury, who are now trying to ascertain the cause of his death. Mr. Richardson stood at the front of his profession in West Virginia, and added to great mental endowments possessed a kind heart and generous disposition, but had that failing for intoxicating liquors which wrecks the hopes and happiness of so many of our ablest and best men.

LATER.—The following is the verdict of the Coroner's jury: "An inquisition taken at the Court House, in the county of Brooke, on the 14th day of March, in the year 1873, before Thomas Everett, a justice of the district of Wellsburg, said county of Brooke, upon the view of the body of Nathaniel Richardson, there lying dead. The jurors, sworn to testify when, how and by what means the said Nathaniel Richardson came to his death, do say that the said Nathaniel Richardson came to his death on the morning of the said 14th day of March from suffocation by the burning of a dwelling house of Conrad Feterer, on the morning of said day."

A TEXAS MURDER TRIAL.

A Lawyer's Stratagem to Secure the Punishment of a Criminal.

A correspondent writing from Hannibal, Mo., to the Chicago *Times*, gives the following anecdote of Mr. Ewing, one of the counsel for the prosecution in the trial of Coe for the murder of Miss Abbie Sherman, on the 12th of June, 1870, now in progress at Palmyra: The press and jam in the court-room to hear Mr. Ewing was simply fearful. A great deal of curiosity was excited to hear him on account of quite a romantic story of a case in which he figured as prosecuting attorney, and which story has been the theme of everybody attending the trial where Mr. Ewing was to be in the case. Thinking the case not out of place here, a brief history of it runs as follows: Two young men left Adams county, Illinois, for Texas, and after the lapse of time one of them returned and reported his companion as having mysteriously disappeared, and supposed to have been murdered. He remained some time in Adams county, and then returned to Texas. After his departure a circumstance occurred which pointed to him as having committed the deed. Search was instituted in Texas, and what was left of the remains —the skull—was found in a chapparel. This was identified by some peculiarity, and the companion of the murdered man was arrested for the crime, and a search in his effects revealed a portion of the clothing which the murdered man had on when last seen. When the trial was called in Court the counsel for the prisoner asked for a continuance, which was granted. At the next term of Court the same thing occurred. Ewing, thinking their aim was to wear out the patience of the counsel and witnesses by the long journey from Illinois to Texas, at the next term of Court left his witnesses within a few miles of the town, and, disguising himself, went into the court-room. When the case was called the defense answered that they were ready for trial, supposing Ewing to be hundreds of miles away. Their astonishment was doubled when the grim also announced himself as ready, and sending for his witnesses the trial commenced. In his argument before the jury he held the skull of the murdered man in his hand during the entire speech until the closing, when walking up to the prisoner he hurled epithets and invectives down upon him without stint, and then, as if by accident, placed the grinning skull into his lap. He had the satisfaction to see him hung before he left Texas.

PEN SKETCHES

Of Allegheny County Delegates in the Constitutional Convention.

The Philadelphia *Press*, among its pen portraits of the members of the Constitutional Convention gives the following:

HON. J. W. FLETCHER WHITE.

A lawyer of promise, large practice, and some expertness as a local preacher, whose voice is musical, and whose mind is not. Hon. J. W. Fletcher White, the Republican delegate from Pittsburgh. He is a native of Washington county, where he was born in 1823, although his appearance makes no such longevity. He studied law also with Mr. McKennan, and was admitted to the bar in 1845, graduated at Allegheny College, has held no office till now, but three years ago was a juror in Boom, to deliberate upon a verdict. Eleven of these men happened to be a little stubborn, and there being a majority that would be kept out for several hours, the conversation turned upon rats, unborn jurors delight in story telling, and after one or two rather common-place stories had been told, Mr. ——, who resides at Turtle creek, asked: "Do you suppose a rat carries an egg?" Various guesses were made, but none were correct.

I will tell you, continued the farmer. "I had an old shop at home, near the barn in which I kept ore were a good many rats. My wife had been using her eggs, from a nest in the lower part of e barn, and she blamed the rats for it. I searched the premises frequently, but could find no rats, and concluded that something else was carring off the eggs. My wife thought otherwise; and as she could not undertake to explain how it could carry an egg, she knew the eggs were ken, and that there was nothing else to take them. On Sunday I concluded to settle the question, ed with that object in view got up into the haymow, here I had a view of the stack, and the door to e barn. I had left an egg in the nest, a bait. After waiting for some time, rat popped out from the stack, d sniffing the air, and looking carefully round, ran over to the barn. In a few moments it s followed by another rat, and then a very long it till until I witnessed a perfectly satisfactory solu- of the question which had been troubling my fe and me. The two rats came out of the barn toether, or rather one close behind the other, carry- g his egg with them. The foremost rat was lying on its back, and had the egg securely clutched tween its legs. It had also a hold of the tail of r rat ahead, with its mouth, and thus rigged up, o two were making off with the egg! Rat No. 1 as playing horse, while No. 2 was being pulled er the ground as a sort of sled—and that is the y rats carry eggs."

The eleven "good and lawful men" who heard this extraordinary story, at once "came down on the question, and soon after agreed upon their verdict.

DANGEROUS BURNING FLUIDS.

The Oil Producers and Insurance Companies Petition the Legislature to Prohibit the Manufacture and Sale of Explosive Illuminating Oils.

The form of petition appended below has, we are assured, been widely circulated in the oil regions, and signed by over five thousand persons interested in the production of oil, etc. Doubtless nine-tenths of the people of the entire State would join in this petition were it presented to them. The names appended to the petition hereto given embrace the representatives of a large number of our home insurance companies and foreign agencies:

To the Honorable Senate and Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met: We, the undersigned citizens of the State of Pennsylvania, together with many others, who are engaged in the production of crude petroleum, admonished by the fact that a great and deadly injury is being done to a great mass of the citizens of this State in the loss of life and the paralyzing of one of the greatest industrial interests of the Commonwealth, to wit: the oil producing business, humbly appeal to our honorable bodies that you will enact such suitable laws as will give us protection in life and property by compelling all manufacturers of a light and material productive in whole or in part from crude petroleum, to make said oils or fluid of a fire test of such degrees Fahrenheit as will make explosions impossible.

We pray you to make the penalties so severe that no one will have the hardihood to risk the commission of the death dealing compounds for giving light, which are at present in almost every locality of the State, and your petitioners will ever pray.

John Rea, Secretary Citizens' Ins. Co.
Wm. F. Herbert, Secretary of Western Ins. Co.
T. Brent Swearingen, Secretary Armenia Ins. Co.
Robert Finney, Jr., Secretary Eureka Ins. Co.
A. M. L. Jones, Agent North America Ins. Co.
Hartford Fire Ins. Co., Pennsylvania Fire Ins Co.
Robert Finney, Jr., Secretary Boatmen's Ins. Co.
Wm. F. Gardner, Secretary People's Ins. Co.
Swearingen & McCandless.
J. M. Kenney, Secretary M. and M. Ins. Co.
Robt. D. Thompson, Girard Fire Ins. Co.
Jas. B. Stevenson, Secretary National Ins. Co.
M. J. Herrcose, Secretary Allemania Ins. Co.

Remarkable Rat Story.

Many curious stories have been told illustrative of the bravery, the cunning, the stratagem, and even the affection of the rat family, but the wonderful exploits in cellar, garret and stable have been observed and printed from time immemorial, and nothing so much truth has been mixed in a large amount of fable that has found its way into print, as the vengeance of the rat species on account of the restless little animal. We give the following true story, as re ated a few days ago, by a gentleman who was an eye witness of the wonderful performance. Twelve men, from various parts of the country, had been empanneled as a jury room, to deliberate upon a verdict. Eleven of these en happened to be a little stubborn, and there ing a majority that would be kept out for several hours, the conversation turned upon rats, unborn jurors delight in story telling, and after one or two rather common-place stories had been told, Mr. ——, who resides at Turtle creek, asked: "Do you suppose a rat carries an egg?" Various guesses were made, but none were correct.

I will tell you, continued the farmer. "I had an old shop at home, near the barn in which I kept ere were a good many rats. My wife had been using her eggs, from a nest in the lower part of e barn, and she blamed the rats for it. I searched the premises frequently, but could find no rats, and concluded that something else was carring off the eggs. My wife thought otherwise; and as she could not undertake to explain how it could carry an egg, she knew the eggs were ken, and that there was nothing else to take them. On Sunday I concluded to settle the question, ed with that object in view got up into the haymow, here I had a view of the stack, and the door to e barn. I had left an egg in the nest, a bait. After waiting for some time, rat popped out from the stack, d sniffing the air, and looking carefully round, ran over to the barn. In a few moments it s followed by another rat, and then a very long it till until I witnessed a perfectly satisfactory solu- of the question which had been troubling my fe and me. The two rats came out of the barn together, or rather one close behind the other, carry- g his egg with them. The foremost rat was lying on its back, and had the egg securely clutched tween its legs. It had also a hold of the tail of r rat ahead, with its mouth, and thus rigged up, o two were making off with the egg! Rat No. 1 as playing horse, while No. 2 was being pulled er the ground as a sort of sled—and that is the y rats carry eggs."

The eleven "good and lawful men" who heard this extraordinary story, at once "came down on the question, and soon after agreed upon their ver-

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, March 13, 1873.

We give herewith a tabulated statement of the condition of the banks of this city, with that of Allegheny city and Birmingham, as shown by their report to the Comptroller of the Currency on February 28, 1873.

The report as compared with that of December 7, 1872, shows a decrease in surplus earnings of $39,923, caused by the payment of the January dividends, the deposits have increased $1,075,130, circulation increased $39,994, loans increased $1,050,433. The total reserve held is $4,639,470. As might be expected the increase and loans and deposits is reflected in an easier money market and lower rates of interest than at the last statement. The column of deposits will be read with interest as indicating the range of business done by the several banks:

NAMES.	Capital.	Surplus.	Deposits	Circulation.	Loans.	Specie.	Legal Tenders.	Reserve.
Pittsburgh,	$1,000,000	$500,000	$2,158,638	$900,000	$3,644,454	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Commerce,	300,000	300,000	766,160	269,100	1,041,340	1,000	1,000	1,000
Farmers',	250,000	250,000	983,400	224,910	1,041,340	1,000	1,000	1,000
Exchange,	500,000	500,000	1,066,380	449,550	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Allegheny,	300,000	300,000	1,066,380	269,100	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Exchange,	500,000	500,000	1,066,380	449,550	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Iron City,	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,066,380	899,100	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Third,	500,000	500,000	1,066,380	449,550	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Peoples',	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,066,380	899,100	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fourth,	500,000	500,000	1,066,380	449,550	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Citizens',	500,000	500,000	1,066,380	449,550	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Second Ward,	300,000	300,000	1,066,380	269,100	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Citizens', Allegheny,	300,000	300,000	1,066,380	269,100	1,966,380	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total,	$8,000,000	$6,000,000	$16,373,257	$6,000,000	$24,000,000	$16,000	$16,000	$16,000
Birmingham,	$100,000	$100,000	$1,066,380	$89,910	$1,966,380	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
Total,	$8,100,000	$6,100,000	$17,439,637	$6,089,910	$25,966,380	$17,000	$17,000	$17,000

Notwithstanding the above favorable showing, the money market is very active and loanable funds scarce. In the East there is an excessive stringency intensified by speculative interests. The withdrawal of three per cent. certificates during the past two years has been a severe contraction which has been felt by all the National banks, the basis of their system being decreased while the growth of the country at the same time having enlarged the legitimate demand for money. The weakness of the banks, legal tender reserves is thus accounted for.

The large balance of our foreign trade, which has been constantly running against us has necessitated large shipments of gold to offset this balance and to pay the interest on our National, State and corporation indebtedness held abroad. This loss of gold has weakened the specie part of the bank reserves.

Stock operators finding the banks unable to carry them, have been borrowing foreign capital on their stocks as collateral, until there is said to be from $25,000,000 to $40,000,000 of foreign capital afloat in Wall street. The present condition of the foreign exchange market has checked these loans, adding somewhat to the stringency of the market.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 19, 1873.

While the last Congress did much tinkering on financial subjects, it accomplished absolutely nothing in regard to our currency circulation. It, however, passed a law regulating our silver coinage, which goes into operation on the first of the coming month, and effects an important change in the character of our silver coins. The last legislation on that subject was in 1853—that law providing that the silver half dollar instead of 412½ grains of standard silver, one-tenth being alloy, which was the former weight, should contain 192 grains of such silver—that is, two half dollars present standard contain only 345.6 grains of *pure* silver, instead of 371. 25 grains as formerly, the reduction being about 691 per cent. Thus $100 of silver bullion when taken to the mint is coined into 105 dollars, and our silver dollars have become a drug on the foreign markets from this discount. In changing the coinage in 1853 the half dollar was made the unit, containing 192 grains of *pure* silver, while the dollar contained 371.25 grains of pure silver. So that all our silver dollars and all other silver coins of dates prior to 1853 are equal in value to the gold coinage, a fact of which all coin brokers are very well aware. In the new law the silver half dollar is to be the standard, and fixes its weight at 12½ metrical grammes, so that two half dollars will be precisely equivalent in weight to the five franc piece, and will circulate by its side on equal terms in all nations using the franc system. It is said that the new dollar will command a price of about one hundred and eight cents in gold, and when it is considered that our mines have had to sell their bullion at a discount on its real value, it will be seen that after all our expenses are paid, they will make an advance of at least four per cent. on their silver by supplying China with trade dollars. Some idea of the importance of this change may be gathered by a glance at the statistics which show that about $50,000,000 in silver is annually produced in the United States and exported to foreign countries—in 1850 it was but $300,000, so that our silver production has increased in twenty-five years a hundred fold, with still brighter prospects for the future when the West will have the capital she needs for her development. The law will give a very decided impetus to the production of silver in the far West. Since the United States mint was first authorized in 1792 there have been eight acts of Congress affecting the coinage. The standard value of the silver dollar has been changed once, of the three cent piece once, and of all the other silver coins twice, while the whole gold coinage has been changed twice.

This system of international coinage is a practical step in the direction of the unification of the human race in interests and language, in spirit with the prediction of the President's inaugural. An international coinage has long been the dream of political economists, and the first Napoleon said that "among the civilizing agents most needed in Europe is a common money." This need so long and so universally felt will soon be recorded among accomplished facts.

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New 5s		113	113
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—Efforts to amend the usury laws are making in almost all the States of the Union, and various modes to improve them or get rid of them altogether are suggested. A bill before the New York Legislature proposes to allow any rate of interest to be charged, but only seven per cent. to be recovered on legal process. If the borrower pays the interest he agrees to no question is raised, and there the matter ends. This is very nearly an entire repeal of the usury laws, and places money on a footing with other commodities; but the prospect for its becoming a law at this session is not very flattering.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by Geo. I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

March 19, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾
Canton	....	....	....	....	....	....
Western Union Tel	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾
Quicksilver	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pacific Mail	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾
Adams Express	....	94¼	....	94¼	....	....
Wells Fargo Express	....	98	....	98	....	....
American Express	....	69	....	69	....	....
United States express	....	74	....	74	....	....
New York Central	100¾	100¾	100¾	101	101	....
Erie	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾
Michigan Central	....	98¾	....	....	98¾	....
Michigan Southern	93¾	93¾	....	....	....	....
Illinois Central	110	110	....	....	....	....
Cleveland and Pitts	....	86¾	....	....	86¾	....
Chicago and Rock I	....	97¾	....	....	97¾	....
Chicago and N. W. pref	....	87¾	88	....	....	....
Rock Island	112¾	112¾	....	....	112¾	112¾
St. Paul	36¾	37	....	....	37	37¼
St. Paul pref	....	76¾	....	....	76¾	....
Wabash	....	26¾	....	....	26¾	....
Wabash pref	....	46¾	....	....	....	....
Fort Wayne	....	93¾	....	....	93¾	....
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾	30¾	....	....	30¾	....
Union Pacific	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾
Chicago and Alton	....	112	112¾	112¾	....	....
Boston, Hart. and Erie	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hannibal	....	136¾	139	138	....	....
New Jersey Central	....	....	95¾	....	....	....
C. C. and I. C	....	....	44¾	....	....	....
Han. Bal and St. Jo	....	....	44¾	....	....	....
Iron Mountain	....	....	....	....	....	....
Atlantic Mail	....	....	....	....	....	....

—Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn'a Central	58¾	Phila. and Erie	26
Reading	87¾	Lehigh Navigation	83¾
United Cos. of N. J.	126	Pittsburgh 68	92
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	33	A. V. R. R. 7-30s	99
Lehigh Valley R. R.	61	Central Transport'n	48¾

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, March 19, 1873.

REMARKS.—March is asserting her prerogative for fickleness. Monday was bright, Tuesday wet and cheerless, to-day pleasant—but of to-morrow we know not. As there are no changes to note we shall make our remarks brief.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bbls	6,672	8,760	15,432
Apples, barrels	876	9,665	2,541
Cheese, boxes	556	180	736
Corn, sacks	1,214	8,514	9,728
Wheat, sacks	3,676	7,223	10,899
Barley, sacks	1,226	8,842	10,068
Rye, sacks	395	1,953	2,348
Oats, sacks	4,091	7,250	11,341
Butter, packages	319	303	622
Bacon, pieces	9,466	9,529	18,995
Bacon, tierces	1,091	208	1,299

The following are the wholesale rates of the market, unless special mention is made to the contrary:

APPLES—Demand quiet at $2 50@3 00 ₩ bbl; common $1 50@2 00. Receipts 174 bbls.

APPLE BUTTER—Demand fair at 5½@6c ₩ gallon.

ASHES.—Common soda ash at 4¾@4½c; refined 5½@6c; pots, 9¾@9¾c; pearls, 11c; arsenic, 3½@3½c; nitrate soda, 4¼@5c; black lead 6c.

ALES—No. 3, ₩ bbl; XX, $10; porter, $10; India ale, $11.

BUTTER—Prices have not materially changed, and the receipts have fallen off slightly. There is a fair demand for prime roll at 32@35c ₩ lb; good to prime 28@30c ₩ lb. Receipts 48 packages.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—Receipts, pieces 9,284; tierces 208. Canvassed hams, though not yet upon the market, will put in an appearance before long, and will range in price ¾@1c ₩ lb above prime sugar cured. We are reported an active trade at the following quotations: Sugar cured hams 13½c; sugar cured shoulders 8½c; plain shoulders 7½c; rib sides 8¾c; clear rib sides 9¾c; clear sides 9¾c; breakfast bacon 12c; dried beef 13c; mess pork $18 50; hams sausage 10c; lard, in tierces, 9¾c; in half bbls, 10¼c; in kegs, 10¾c; in buckets, 10¾c; pigs feet, ₩ keg, $2 20; in half bbls $4 40.

BEANS—White navy sells at $2 85@3 00 ₩ bushel.

BEESWAX—Sales at 30¾@32c ₩ lb.

BROOM CORN—Market quiet, with sales at 4¾@5c.

BAKING POWDER—Banner—1 lb cans, $3 00 ₩ doz; ½ lb cans $2 25; ¼ lb cans $1 75.

CHEESE—Receipts light. New York Goshen 17c; Ohio do 15¾c; Dairy 14¾c; Factory 16c; Sweitzer 14@16c.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Demand fair at $7 50@8 00 ₩ case.

CARBON OIL—Car lots 18¾@19c, with the usual advance on small lots.

DRIED FRUITS—Peaches, halves, 7@8c; choice apples 5½@6c; fair, 4½@5c.

CRANBERRIES—Sackett's and Carey's brands held at $12 50@14 00 ₩ bbl; cultivated and common $10@12.

EGGS—Demand fair and prices unchanged, though hey point lower. We quote strictly fresh at 22@23c ₩ dozen.

FLOUR—We have nothing new to give the reader with regard to the prices of flour. As noted, there has been a decline in prices of some western brands, and it may be that still lower figures will yet be quoted. We quote: Choice red winter wheat flour $9 00@9 50 ₩ bbl; Penn Mills, white wheat, $9 25; Ruling sun, red, $8 25; Minnesota local $8 50; Barn's Wisconsin $7 75. Rye flour $5 75.

GROCERIES—We have taken a survey to-day among the wholesale grocers, and found quite an active trade doing in that line. Prices in most figures are low at present, but no advance is looked for a month or so to come. Coffees are quiet and weak at our quotations—but with the light stock on the market no material decline can be expected. Syrups are quick with sales at prices quoted, and we should not be surprised to note an advance any day. New Orleans molasses are held firmly, and the stock in the market ample for all wants. We would advise our retail grocers to buy early if they want to secure low prices before the spring trade commences. We give the following as the quotations at which sales are made by all leading houses:

Sugars—Knight's yellow 8¾c; Knight's extra C 9¾c; B & L yellow 8¾c; B & L extra C 9¾c; B & L extra C, 11¾c; Phœnix, yellow C, 9¾c; Phœnix extra C, 11¾c; white crushed 13¼c; powdered 13¼c; granulated 13¾c; cut loaf 14c; Demarara 11¾c; New Orleans 10a11c.

Coffees—Fair 20@20½c; good 21¾@22c; prime 23@23½c; strictly prime 24@25c; Laguayra 26@26¾c; roasted, loose 27¾c; in packages, 28c.

Syrups—Common 28@45c; Crystal 55c; H & R 70c; choice maple (barrels) 80c; sugar drip (barrels) 70c; white drips $1 30.

Teas—Cargo's 45@50c; Rangoon 71¼@74½c.

New Orleans Molasses—Choice 80c; strictly prime 75c; prime 73c ₩ gallon.

Rice—Sales 7½@8c.

Rosins—Layers $2 50; Valencias 10½c; Muscatels $3 20; seedless $3 50 ₩ box.

GRAIN—Receipts are the receipts for the past twenty-four hours, exclusive of grain elevator, which appears in imports:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Wheat, sacks	1,254	Barley, sacks	548
Corn, sacks	1,360	Oats, sacks	5,691

With regard to the market we have nothing new to say. Wheat is selling higher, and we hear complaints on all hands of dullness. There is a better day coming, and we shall note its arrival. We quote as follows for the day: Red winter $1 48; white $1 55 ₩ bushel; red winter $1 80. Corn—Yellow, shelled, 52@53c; ear, 50c; mixed 48c. Oats—Black 42c; white 45c; mixed 43c. Rye—Nominal at 80c. Barley—Fall 95@$1 00; spring 85@90c.

HAY—There is a large supply, though prices are unchanged. We quote baled on wharf and track at $26@28 ₩ ton as to quality.

HONEY—Sales at 35@40c ₩ lb.

HOMINY—Sales at $4 25@4 75 ₩ bbl.

HOPS—Scarcely for 1872; 1873 not saleable.

LIME—Cleveland white $2 ₩ bbl; Eastern $1 75.

LARD OIL—Sales at 70@75; jobbing lots, 72@73c ₩ gallon.

ONION SETS—Sales at $5 50@6 00 ₩ bushel.

SEEDS—Clover $5 40@6 00; timothy $3 00@4 00.

SWEET POTATOES—Sales made at $5 00 ₩ bbl.

MILL FEED—Bran 85c@90c ₩ cwt.; middlings $1 20@1 25; coarse chop $1 00@1 05.

MINCE MEAT—Choice brands 19c ₩ lb.

ONIONS—Prime $6@7; red $4 50@5 00. Stocks light.

MAPLE SUGAR—18@20c ₩ lb.

MAPLE MOLASSES—$1 65 ₩ gallon, jug included.

POTATOES—Lake Shore peachblows, on track, 77½c; store 80@85c. Receipts 1,241 bbls.

POULTRY—Dressed turkey 17@20c; chickens 14@16c ₩ lb; live turkeys ₩ pair. Few in the market.

RAGS—Sales at 3½@4c ₩ lb.

SALT—Sales extra No 1 at $1 65 ₩ bbl; No 2 $1 35.

SAPOLIO—$6 00 ₩ case of 6 doz each.

SEEDS—Clover seed $5 50@5 75; timothy seed $4 00@4 25. HERDSFT $1 95@2 00 ₩ bush.

TALLOW—Sales at 8@8½c ₩ lb.

WHISKY—Highwines 91½@92c ₩ gal.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, March 20, 1873.

REMARKS.—The market was a dull one. We were unable to discover any improvement at all as to prices or demand. We heard of no transactions here, although crude could be obtained at 5¾@5¾c per gallon. The receipts yesterday were over 7,000 barrels. Parker's sales were reported as follows: 1,000 barrels at 6c and 1,000 barrels at 6¼c. We failed to gather any information as to the sales of refined for future delivery, but we judge that about $50,000,000 in silver is annually produced in the United States and exported to foreign countries—in 1850 it was but $300,000, so that our silver production has increased in twenty-five years a hundred fold, with still brighter prospects for the future when the West will have the capital she needs for her development. The law will give a very decided impetus to the production of silver in the far West. Since the United States mint was first authorized in 1792 there have been eight acts of Congress affecting the coinage. The standard value of the silver dollar has been changed once, of the three cent piece once, and of all the other silver coins twice, while the whole gold coinage has been changed twice.

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An additional call for $500,000 three per cents has been made interest to cease April 30. This call takes all the certificates of the denomination of $10,000, and leaves but $725,000 of the $5,000 yet uncalled. The first call was made so that the interest ceased December 31, 1870. The amount outstanding before that call was $45,650,000. The total called up to this date is $44,770,000, the difference between this amount and $45,020,000 being explained by the fact that some certificates have been presented without being called, holders of them always having the privilege of presenting them at any time for legal tenders. The following shows what part of the $44,770,000 were called in respective years: In 1870, $2,030,000; in 1871, $21,900,000; in 1872, $17,350,000, and in 1873, $2,520,000.

—Efforts to amend the usury laws are making in almost all the States of the Union, and various modes to improve them or get rid of them altogether are suggested. A bill before the New York Legislature proposes to allow any rate of interest to be charged, but only seven per cent. to be recovered on legal process. If the borrower pays the interest he agrees to no question is raised, and there the matter ends. This is very nearly an entire repeal of the usury laws, and places money on a footing with other commodities; but the prospect for its becoming a law at this session is not very flattering.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by Geo. I. Whitney, Esq., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

March 19, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:00 P.M.
Gold	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾
Canton	....	....	....	....	....	....
Western Union Tel	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾	86¾
Quicksilver	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pacific Mail	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾
Adams Express	....	94¼	....	94¼	....	....
Wells Fargo Express	....	98	....	98	....	....
American Express	....	69	....	69	....	....
United States express	....	74	....	74	....	....
New York Central	100¾	100¾	100¾	101	101	....
Erie	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾
Michigan Central	....	98¾	....	....	98¾	....
Michigan Southern	93¾	93¾	....	....	....	....
Illinois Central	110	110	....	....	....	....
Cleveland and Pitts	....	86¾	....	....	86¾	....
Chicago and Rock I	....	97¾	....	....	97¾	....
Chicago and N. W. pref	....	87¾	88	....	....	....
Rock Island	112¾	112¾	....	....	112¾	112¾
St. Paul	36¾	37	....	....	37	37¼
St. Paul pref	....	76¾	....	....	76¾	....
Wabash	....	26¾	....	....	26¾	....
Wabash pref	....	46¾	....	....	....	....
Fort Wayne	....	93¾	....	....	93¾	....
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾	30¾	....	....	30¾	....
Union Pacific	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾	83¾
Chicago and Alton	....	112	112¾	112¾	....	....
Boston, Hart. and Erie	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hannibal	....	136¾	139	138	....	....
New Jersey Central	....	....	95¾	....	....	....
C. C. and I. C	....	....	44¾	....	....	....
Han. Bal and St. Jo	....	....	44¾	....	....	....
Iron Mountain	....	....	....	....	....	....
Atlantic Mail	....	....	....	....	....	....

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1873.

THE largest number of dismissals ever made by any President at one time will be on the 20th of May next, when sixteen hundred Assessors and Assistant Assessors of Internal Revenue will be discharged.

OHIO HAS made an important advance in the right direction. In the Legislature of that State a bill prohibiting lotteries and gift enterprises of every description has just passed by a large majority. During the progress of the bill an amendment to exempt churches and public libraries from its operations was voted down in the most decisive manner. It is quite time that other State Legislatures should provide for the inhibition of this sorry business.

IT IS REPORTED from Washington that, as soon as the question of who is to be the next Secretary of the Treasury is settled, the syndicate will reopen their subscription books, and make another call for $50,000,000 5-20s of 1862. This will probably occur about the first of next month. It appears that the new syndicate are considerably slower than the old, for the reason that there are a much larger number of principals in the transaction, but it is believed that the experience gained by the subscription now in course of settlement will be of great service to all concerned when future subscriptions are asked.

THERE appears to be a general misapprehension throughout the country with regard to the postal laws passed at the last session of Congress. Postoffice authorities almost everywhere complain of an abundance of drop letters bearing a one cent postage stamp, whereas the rate still remains at two. The bill, reducing letter postage to two cents, and providing for the prepayment of postage on all mail matter, passed the House, but failed in the Senate. There was, however, an amendment to the Postoffice Appropriation bill which repeals all existing acts with regard to all free matter. This of course includes exchanges between newspapers and free postage on papers circulating in the counties where they are published. This law takes effect on the 1st of July.

A DECISION of considerable importance to debtors and creditors was rendered a few days ago, in the United States District Court of New Jersey, to the effect that where a man was bankrupt he was not entitled to the five hundred dollars exemption of the United States law, but was entitled to the two hundred dollars allowed by the State law only; not to both the State and National exemption, as that, in some cases, would leave nothing for the creditors. In another case it was decided, as to what property should be restrained under the bankrupt act, that all property must be given into the hands of an assignee, except that amount exempted by the State law, and that the other exemption must come through the order of the Court. It is to be presumed that the same principle applies in other States.

A CASE of considerable importance to persons of intemperate habits who hold policies of life insurance, was decided in Baltimore last week. Suit was brought in the Supreme Court of Maryland against a life insurance company, for the recovery of two thousand dollars on a life insurance policy issued to the deceased husband of the plaintiff. The Court held that the contracts of insurance companies were to be construed in the same spirit as other contracts, and ruled that there could be no reasons why a condition which awarded a policy in the event that the insured did not die of delirium tremens should not be lawful, and that it was consistent with public policy, and as the proof showed that the insured died of delirium tremens, the policy was void. A decision of similar character was lately delivered by the Supreme Court of Ohio, in a case resembling the above.

PERSONS interested in oysters—a comprehensive class—will be gratified to learn that the late terribly severe winter does not seem to have imposed any necessity of self-denial upon their taste. According to a late Baltimore paper, licenses had been already issued to six hundred and sixteen vessels to engage in the trade, and heavily laden oyster vessels daily arrive at the wharf. The same authority affirms that the quality of oysters was never better than the present season; indeed, the oracle seems to imply that they are better than usual this spring, as he states that on account of ice at the mouth of the Potomac, the fishermen have sought their cargoes chiefly in the lower part of the Bay, in former years visited only by a single fisherman now and then. No apology is necessary for this special mention of a subject so generally interesting, if not important.

YESTERDAY we presented some striking statistics obtained from advance sheets of the report of the Commissioner of the Census on Manufactures, showing the astonishing growth of our manufacturing industries within the past twenty years, and especially during the last decade. The following is a comparison of the leading figures at the three decennial periods of 1850–60–70:

	1850.	1860.	1870.
No. establishm'ts.	123,025	140,433	252,148
No. hands empl'd.	957,059	1,311,246	2,053,996
Cap'l employed.	$533,245,033	$1,009,855,715	$2,118,325,709
Am't wages.....	236,760,464	378,878,906	775,584,343
Am't mat'ls used.	550,064,462	885,861,010	2,468,427,242
Am't products.	1,019,106,616	1,885,861,676	4,232,325,442

The net per centage of this increase is as follows:

Increase per cent. from 1850 to 1860.		From 1860 to 1870.	
Establishments.....14	15-100 per cent.	79	55-100 per cent.
Hands employed..37		56	64-100 per cent.
Capital.....99	38-100 per cent.	109	75-100 per cent.
Wages.....60	per cent.	114	70-100 per cent.
Materials.....61	53-100 per cent.	178	63-100 per cent.
Products.....85	08-100 per cent.	124	45-100 per cent.

This is a record of development without a parallel in modern history. These marvelous results are, of course, partly the fruit of the unlimited resources of the country; but they are also, to a very great degree, the logical sequence of the protective policy pursued by the government during the greater portion of the period in question. The manufacturing industries of the United States seem now to be based on a solid foundation, and their prosperity is, to a large extent, the prosperity of Pennsylvania and of Pittsburgh.

A CLERGYMAN in Chicago, a few Sundays ago, created a marked sensation not only among his immediate audience but throughout the city by a narrative of the adventures of a respectable merchant which ended in his death. The interest was made in proof of the assertion that there are in Chicago low dens of iniquity into which decent people are enticed for the purpose of stupifying them with poisonous drugs and then robbing them, and the clergyman referred to, mentioned an acquaintance of his own who had been solicited twice within a period of twenty-four hours for money by one of his friends thus entrapped. It seems, however, that no attempt had been made by either the keeper of the "den" or his victim to conceal the position of the place or prevent interference between the sufferer and his friends. In fact, while mysterious, the affair was not sufficiently mysterious to sustain public curiosity for more than a few hours, and the explanation promptly suggested at once dissipated the public excitement. Chicago, a metropolitan city, where all things may be obtained and all delights experienced, is, it appears, no longer destitute of facilities for gratifying the peculiar taste of those who seek for stupefaction in the fumes of opium. Readers of DICKENS'S last fragmentary story will remember the description there given of such a place in London—which, however, is the most recent and opium retreats found in Chinese cities. The vice is perhaps not unlikely to become common in the United States, and the likelihood, or the possibility, is much to be dreaded, as in deleterious effects whisky drinking or even opium eating may be described as a virtue in comparison with the vice of opium smo king.

ELSEWHERE in this issue we print the interesting comparative statistical summary of the manufactures of the whole country, of which we last week gave an editorial condensation. "Results are the best rhetoric," and certainly the figures in question tell their own story of amazing growth and progress with sufficient clearness and emphasis. It will be observed, from the recapitulation we have given, that the product of our manufactures was $4,232,325,000 in 1870, against $1,885,801,000 in 1860, not including those of mining, quarrying and fishing, which are included in the totals of 1850 and 1860. The hands employed in 1850 were 957,059; in 1860, 1,311,246, and in 1870, 2,053,996; capital invested in 1850, $533,245,-351; in 1860, $1,009,885,715; in 1870, $2,118,-288,769; amount of wages in 1850, $236,755,-404; in 1860, $378,878,906; in 1870, $775,584,-343; value of materials in 1850, $555,123,822; in 1860, $1,031,695,092; in 1870, $2,488,427,242. The exact figures for the different leading branches of manufacture show that the value of iron and its products amounted in 1870 to $628,203,885; cotton, worsted and woolen, $611,406,177; flouring and grist mills, $444,-985,143; leather and its products, $343,439,-730; lumber, $252,339,629; sugar and molasses, $119,789,097; liquors, distilled, malt and vinous, $94,123,014; tobacco, cigars and snuff, $71,702,944. The annual production of printing paper is $25,000,000; of writing paper $9,-000,000; and bookbinding stands at $14,000,-000. And all this takes no account of the great importations of stationery and books. Agricultural implements make a good showing of $62,066,876, contrasting markedly with shipbuilding material and repairs which foot up only $17,910,328. Of jewelry the domestic production is $22,104,032, while even the patent medicine trafic still asserts its power over human credulity by the round figures, $16,000,000. California is the only State in the whole list which shows an absolute decrease during the last decade in the value of manufactured products. These amounted, in 1860, in value to $68,253,228. If the returns are not a mistake for 1870, they show a value of $66,594,556. The increase in the former decade was 475 per cent.; in the latter there was a decrease, while the white population increased 54.54 per cent.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION IN INDIANA.

Intelligent supporters of either side of the temperance question in the various forms under which, in different places, it is agitated, will readily concede the fairness as well as the importance of at least trying to comprehend their opponents. Men will differ in opinion about any subject which directly affects the interest of numbers, and in a republican or democratic community, perhaps the most effectual safeguard against results sentimentally disagreeable and practically injurious, is the enlightened candor which is the proper fruit of mutual understan ding.

The Legislature of the State of Indiana has lately gone farther than any other Western State in the severity and comprehensive import of its enactments for the prevention of drunkenness. It has adopted the well known Ohio statute, with some modifications and additions, however, which do not mitigate its stringency. By one provision of the Indiana law, no minor or person under age may be employed in either a brewery or a distillery. Hence in future any one who desires to learn either of those arts must wait for his majority before entering upon his apprenticeship.

If any proof had been wanting of the intensity of feeling in multitudes of the people, excited by the causes which have prompted this legislation in Indiana, it was furnished by the scene in the State House when debate was held and the final vote was taken on the statute referred to. People not belonging to the Legislature, many of them women, it seems, made their way into the Legislative chamber, filled the galleries and every available space, and gave the most lively demonstrations of the interest they took in the subject. In fact, the scene, as described by the correspondent of a German contemporary, reminds one of nothing in history so much as of some of the scenes in the French National Assembly in the early days of the first Revolution, when the women of the Paris "halles" used to take part in legislation. But let us be just and discriminate. The women who lifted up their voices in the Legislative chamber in Indianapolis appear to have been well dressed, and also to have maintained as much decorum in speech as might be consistent with the strong feeling which moved them. It is to be presumed that many, perhaps most of them, were wives or mothers who had been already made miserable by the drunken habits of husbands or sons, and who hoped for their deliverance and reformation by means of the legislation under discussion. One German gentleman, who took a very prominent part in opposition to the bill, seems to have been terrified as well as horrified by the feminine clamor. However, he stood by his cause through it all. An American member, a Dr. THOMPSON, was also severely tried in consequence of his opposition, having been not only assailed in the House with female shrieks, but laid hold of, or at least beset by, we know not how many of the ladies on the street when going to his hotel after the vote.

In consequence of this enactment by the Indiana Legislature, a convention of brewers and dealers in wine and spirits assembled a few days ago in Indianapolis for the purpose of organizing their forces against the new law. Its constitutionality is to be tried by an appeal to the Courts, and funds were provided and an arrangement made for securing a decision of the question.

In the evening of the day of the convention all the German societies of Indianapolis joined in a demonstration of hostility to the law with banners, torches, transparencies, etc. The procession was a mile long, and numerous bands of music gave animation to the display. Enthusiastic honors were showered upon Senator DENNEGAN, perhaps the most effectual safeguard against results sentimentally disagreeable and practically injurious, is the enlightened candor which is the proper fruit of mutual understan ding. author of the law, and also upon Governor HENDRICKS, who had signed it. The procession was a mile long, and numerous bands of music gave animation to the display. Enthusiastic honors were showered upon Senator DENNEGAN, perhaps the most effectual safeguard against results sentimentally disagreeable and practically injurious, is the enlightened candor which is the proper fruit of mutual understan ding.

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